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ARAB TIMES

ARAB TIMES



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1988

RAMADAN 11, 1408 AH

PLO link with Egypt remains unresolved

Arafat and Assad bury the hatchet

DAMASCUS, April 26, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Syria today after talks with President Hafez Al Assad ended a five-year-old rift amid pledges of support for the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said the issue of the PLO's controversial links with Egypt was not resolved and had been put to a joint committee.

Arafat said today that he and Assad had agreed support for the escalation on the anti-Israeli uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Unrest

More than 160 Palestinians and two Israelis have been killed in over four months of unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Shortly before leaving for Libya, Arafat and members of his Fatah group met Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam for 70 minutes.

Questioned on the outcome of his meeting with Assad, Arafat said: "The outcome will serve the interests of the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause and support the escalation of the blessed uprising in our occupied territories."

Asked whether differences remained between him and the Syrian leader, Arafat said: "There are no differences among the one family."

One of six Arafat aides, all members of the central committee of Fatah, the main PLO faction, who stayed behind to conduct further talks with the Syrians said the PLO leader "will be back within a month."

Hayel Abd-el-Hamid said the chairman's departure was scheduled and did not mean there were any problems in the reconciliation process.

Arafat was accompanied on the flight to Libya by Salah Khalaf, the No.2 man in Fatah,

PLO officials said. Arafat also left behind one of his closest aides, Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO's political department and considered the movement's foreign minister.

Asked whether Assad and Arafat had reconciled, the Popular Struggle Front spokesman Khaled Abdel Majid, said: "Yes."

Situations

Assad's spokesman, Jibrin Kourich, said after last night's session at the presidential palace that the talks had centred on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and "the Arab and Palestinian situations."

Abbas Zaki, chief of Fatah's external affairs bureau, said that the two leaders had agreed to strengthen cooperation and to oppose American Middle East peace plans.

A current US plan, criticised by all concerned in the Middle East, proposes interim Palestinian autonomy in Israeli-occupied territories and an international peace conference.

Palestinian sources said differences remained with Syria on the thorny issue of Arafat's links with Egypt and this would be discussed at a later stage.

"I am sure we will reach an agreement on this issue that will satisfy everybody," one official said.

Worried

Arab analysts have said that while Egypt publicly welcomed the Assad-Arafat reconciliation, it was worried that Arafat might bow to radical pressure from Libya and Syria.

In a statement to reporters in Cairo, Taha Al-Farnaway, head of Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Palestine department, said Egypt always has worked to achieve unity in the Arab world.

"Egypt supports the Palestinian people's efforts to get back their national rights, and it supports the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories," he said.

"From this stance, Egypt supports Palestinian-Syrian coordination if that will lead to (fulfilment) of these aims and enable the Palestinians to get back their rights."

Saudi Arabia has also expressed its satisfaction over the fresh development in the Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Israeli leaders expressed concern at the reconciliation.

"More coordination among Israel's extremist enemies might make it a bit harder (for Israel)," former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon told Israel Radio, but said he didn't think the moves posed a markedly greater threat to Israel.



Hafez Al Assad (right) in talks with Yasser Arafat at the presidential palace in Damascus. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hailstorm in Salmiya

KUWAIT was hit by hailstorm yesterday. Hailstones fell intermittently for about 10 minutes in and around the Salmiya area in the evening.

Children ran happily in the rain to collect the "icy stones." Motorists reported that windshields of several cars were slightly damaged by the hailstones, which fell for under 60 seconds each time.

Many were surprised by the occurrence, described by meteorologist Saleh Jitawi as "fairly common" at this time of year.

Hailstorms are not uncommon in Kuwait and occur two to three times a year during this time of year," said Jitawi.

He said hailstorms with lesser intensity have occurred thrice this year. The phenomenon is caused by unstable weather.

A rich beggar

AMMAN, April 26, (Reuters): A 90-year-old Jordanian woman left surprised relatives over a quarter of a million dollars when she died after an apparently lowly career — as a beggar.

A court discovered that the woman, named only as Rasheda, left \$257,000 (85,354 dinars) in a bank account. It is now trying to find out if she had any other assets, a Jordanian newspaper reported.

Saudis to sign nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

RIYADH, April 26, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has decided to sign the nuclear weapons Non-proliferation Treaty, a strong indication it will not seek nuclear warheads for intermediate-range missiles it recently acquired from China.

The official Saudi Press Agency reported that King Fahd made the decision during a cabinet meeting in Riyadh yesterday.

The meeting was called in response to a recommendation by Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, that the kingdom sign the international treaty against the spread of nuclear arms.

Reassurance

It appeared the timing of the decision was designed primarily to reassure the United States that the kingdom will not try to arm its CSS-2 missiles with nuclear warheads. The decision also was viewed as an attempt to blunt Israel's allegations that the missiles constituted a threat to its safety.

China confirmed in March that it had sold an undisclosed number of surface-to-surface missiles to Riyadh.

The Washington Post said at the time the missiles had a range of 2,200 miles (3,560 km).

The Saudi purchase, seen by Gulf-based diplomats to be a warning to Iran not to extend its missiles war beyond Iraqi targets, caused anger in Washington and concern in Israel.

Yesterday, a bipartisan group of 187 US House of Representatives members signed a letter opposing a US arms sale to Riyadh because of the Chinese missiles deal. New York Congressman Charles Schumer said.

An Israeli official earlier hinted that Israel's armed forces might make a pre-emptive strike against the medium-range missile batteries which could strike Israel as well as Iran.

The New York Times today said Washington was trying to persuade Saudi Arabia to sign the Non-proliferation Treaty to prove it did not intend to acquire nuclear warheads for the missiles.

According to the Times, administration officials said such a signature would have two effects.

"One would be to give symbolic assurances to Israel, where some officials hinted of a pre-emptive strike against the missiles.

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Means

"Another would be to placate Congress, where opposition to military sales to Saudi Arabia is growing," the Times said.

A senior Israeli Air Force general was quoted recently as disclosing that Israel is developing new "defensive means" that would enable Tel Aviv to destroy missiles in Saudi Arabia if they were launched on Israel.

Messages

After the attacks, the US sent messages to the Security Council urging members again to support the arms embargo, which Washington had pushed for eight months as a means to force Iran to halt its eight-year-old war with Iraq.

"The response has been less than enthusiastic," said one US official, who asked not to be identified.

"People are concerned what Iran's reaction might be," he said, adding: "I think people are waiting to see how the dust is going to settle."

Groundless

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry said today that reports it had changed its stance toward the arms embargo were groundless.

The ministry, in a short statement, said: "This report is groundless. Our position remains unchanged."

US State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley also said in Washington yesterday that "Chinese officials in Beijing and Washington have recently reaffirmed that there has been no change in the Chinese position."

Chinese leaders have said that China will support a UN Security Council resolution on an arms embargo against Iran if a majority of the 15-member council backs such a move.

Responding to a question by the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale*, Aharoun said: "This is part of our policy since 1965 and may be before. We proclaimed war against all those organisations. We are the ones who determine time, means and goal. As we attacked them in Lebanon, we attacked them also in Tunis and will attack them everywhere."

UN condemns Abu Jihad slaying

UNITED NATIONS, April 26, (AP): The UN Security Council yesterday voted 14-0 to condemn the assassination of a high-ranking PLO leader, which has been widely blamed on Israel. The United States abstained from voting on the resolution.

Tunisian officials and Israeli sources say Israeli commandos gunned down Khalil Al Wazir, PLO's military commander, at his home in suburban Tunis on Saturday last week.

Officially, Israel has neither confirmed nor denied the allegations.

The executives, speaking on condition they were not named, said a sandstorm over the Gulf restricted visibility of helicopters and mine-hunter vessels accompanying the two re-registered tankers and their escorting US Navy warships.

A source close to the Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. said, however, that the convoy might get under way again within 24 hours.

US officials had conceded earlier that the convoys were falling behind schedule because of concern about mines laid by Iran in the central Gulf and the threat of Iranian missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entrance to the Gulf.

Tunisia, which announced the discovery of three passports — including these two — five days ago, said they were produced by members of the Israeli hit-squad to hijack getaway cars.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's adviser Yusef Bin Aharoun indirectly admitted Israel's responsibility for the assassination.

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Two Lebanese passports used by members of what Tunisia says was an Israeli hit-squad were confiscated in 1984 and 1985 by Israeli authorities, the Tunisian

India fencing Punjab border

NEW DELHI, April 26, (Agencies): Indian engineers have begun putting up a barbed-wire fence along the border between the northern state of Punjab and Pakistan to check arms smuggling and infiltration by Sikh separatists.

Officials said today that over the next three months 1,200 men will stretch a fence and concertina wire coils along the frontier.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of sheltering and arming Sikhs fighting for a separate state in Punjab. Islamabad denies the charge.

The separatists have stepped up attacks, killing more than 700 people so far this year.

This has prompted calls from politicians and Hindu groups for the border to be sealed.

The fence will cover the 120-km (75-mile) land border. The 285-km (175-mile) frontier along the Ravi and Sutlej rivers will not be fenced.

Ditches

India has already built ditches up to one km (1,100 yards) from the border and deployed thousands of paramilitary troops at checkpoints.

But the land between the ditch and the border is farmed and dotted with houses providing cover for smugglers, officials say.

A Pakistani embassy spokesman in New Delhi said he had no comment on the fencing.

US officials confirmed on Sunday that the administration was considering sending Coast Guard vessels to aid its 28-strong fleet patrolling the volatile region and widening US Navy protection to neutral ships not flying the American flag.

On Sunday, Iran attacked another merchant ship in the Gulf just a day after President Reagan warned Tehran against hitting neutral ships in the strategic waterway.

They reported that merchant shipping was operating as normal in the Strait of Hormuz, where a Saudi-owned tanker was attacked on Sunday by Iranian gunboats.

The sources said they did not know the purpose of the sortie.

Earlier yesterday, Secretary of State George Shultz, said in a US television interview that the United States would continue to defend its right to sail in the Gulf but would not get entangled with Iran.

Shultz, in a press conference, said the eight ships would eventually replace the aircraft carrier Enterprise that is in the northern Arabian Sea near the Gulf. Five other US warships, a destroyer and four frigates will leave the East Coast on Thursday for similar patrols.

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INTERNATIONAL

UN officials discuss Soviet withdrawal

Afghans shell Pakistani towns

ISLAMABAD, April 26. (Agencies): UN military officials held talks in Pakistan yesterday on how a 50-man observer group will monitor the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, as Afghan Army units shelled Pakistani border towns, killing at least eight people.

Afghan aircraft also buzzed Pakistani airspace during the shelling, flying as deep as 6 miles into Pakistan, evidently on surveillance missions, official sources in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province said.

"The time is running fast," Maj. Gen. Rauli Heiminen of Finland, leader of the UN implementation assistance group, said in an interview after meeting senior foreign ministry officials on the observer group. "We have to have this organisation ready."

Heiminen said his delegation of about 12 members was making arrangements for a special flight to Kabul for similar negotia-

tions.

"We have to go to Kabul as soon as possible," he said. The general said the final composition of the observer group of military officers from Sweden, Finland, Denmark and six other nations was expected to be announced by the Security Council tomorrow.

Call

A call by Afghanistan's President Najib for better relations with the United States was dismissed by the State Department.

In an interview with a 12-member private US delegation, Najib said he was ready "for any kind of compromise" with the US-backed rebels trying to topple his Soviet-backed government.

One possible compromise is for the return of exiled King Mohammed Zahir Shah to act as a rallying point for a broad-based government that would run the country after the Soviets withdraw their troops, he said.

Army plans massive counter-attack

38 Filipinos killed in battles

MANILA, April 26. (Reuter): Communist rebels in the Philippines ambushed a jeepload of soldiers and renegade troops attacked a government checkpoint, triggering fierce battles in which 16 were killed, the military said today.

A further 22 rebels were killed in two other clashes in the far north of the Philippines.

A military report said seven were killed today when members of an Army "lost command" who abandoned their units two years ago saying they were tired of fighting communists, attacked a checkpoint in Cebu province, central Philippines.

Troops, backed by three Navy boats, two helicopters and armoured carriers, sealed off a

coastal village where the estimated two dozen renegade soldiers were holed up.

Area commander Brigadier-General Jesus Hermoso warned the renegades the military would start a massive counter-attack if they did not surrender.

The former soldiers, all members of the elite, anti-insurgent scout rangers, had been absent without leave since 1986, when they quit soldiery. Their leader, former sergeant Jose Sabandeja, said they were "tired of fighting and wanted to rest."

Escape

Four soldiers and three of the renegades were killed in today's attack and about 100 villagers fled to escape the fighting. It was not immediately clear

why the renegades attacked the checkpoint.

Last night in the northern province of Kalanga-Apaya, about 100 communist rebels fired on a jeepload of soldiers, killing an Army captain, five privates and three civilians, the military said.

Elsewhere in the isolated province, 22 rebels were killed in two separate engagements yesterday when rocket-firing helicopters and light artillery pounded guerrillas and patrols surprised another group of rebels.

The military reports could not be independently confirmed but a spokesman said the Army had recovered the bodies of the slain rebels.

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It was not immediately clear

Jordan won't seek US arms

WASHINGTON, April 26. (Kuna): Jordan's King Hussein has announced he would "never again" seek arms from the US, saying this country's "incomprehensible" behaviour in the Mideast made him suspect American motives.

Appearing on the "Sunday Today" television programme Hussein showed a marked cooling in his view of Washington.

Asked if he trusted US mediation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Hussein said, in some of his strongest language to date: "I have no reason to do so, so far."

At the same time, in what many consider an ominous sign of waning US influence in the

region, the Arab monarch said he was "very impressed" with recent talks with Soviet leaders.

On the US-backed international Mideast peace conference, Hussein said: "I believe the Soviet attitude ... is a very constructive one."

The Soviets and Arab states prefer the conference to be "plenipotentiary" and involve all UN Security Council members.

The US insists the talks be merely symbolic, providing an "umbrella" for Hussein for direct talks between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Although US Secretary of State George Shultz, following a series of recent shuttles through

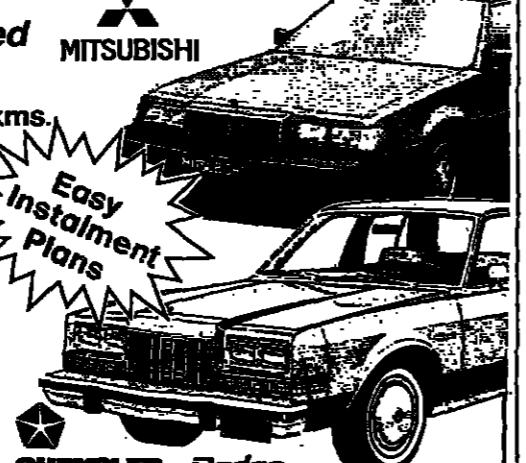
region, praised Hussein for his repeated efforts to move the stalled peace process forward, Hussein has made clear Jordan's sharp differences with the US initiative.

Observers believe the monarch's decision to turn to other arms suppliers reflects Hussein's mounting frustration in seeing his requests for defence systems shot down by a pro-Israeli US Congress.

Thus, while the administration had hoped to sell missiles and other equipment, the lawmakers either turned down the proposals or weighted them with restrictions to reduce their effectiveness.

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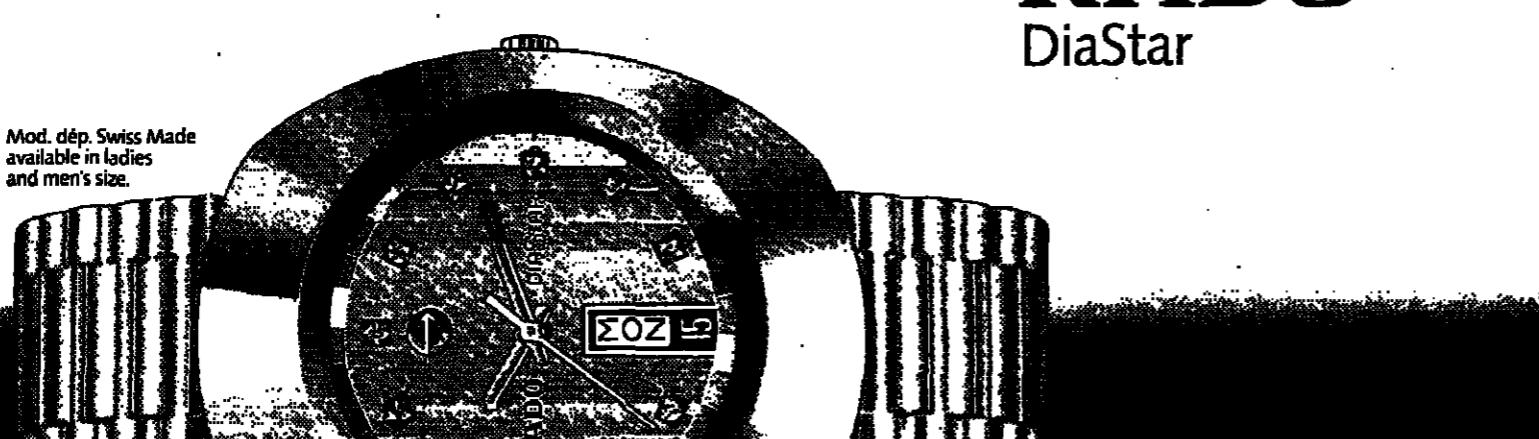
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Israelis kill 5 guerrillas

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, April 26. (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead three guerrillas trying to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon today, security sources said.

They said fighting broke out after an Israeli patrol spotted the guerrillas at 3:30 am (0130 GMT) in the Lebanese village of Kfar Shouba two km (one mile) north of the border.

Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in the clash, the sources added.

The identity of the guerrillas was not immediately known. Several anti-Israeli Muslim fundamentalist and leftist groups operate in the area.

Israeli helicopter gunships raked the area with machinegun fire after the clash and dropped flare bombs in a follow-up search.

Kfar Shouba lies in Israel's self-declared "security zone" — a buffer strip up to 15 km (nine miles) deep set up by Israel in 1985 to protect its northern settlements from guerrilla attack.

Boat

In another incident, an Israeli Navy boat on a pre-dawn patrol off the southern coast of Lebanon sank a "suspicious" rubber dinghy, killing two guerrillas, state-run Israel Radio and the military said.

"The Israeli Navy boat ... identified a small, suspicious boat," a military spokesman said of the incident. "The boat was

Israel Radio reported that the incident occurred at 3 am yesterday near the port of Tyre, 45 miles (70 km) south of Beirut, and that two guerrillas were killed when the navy boat riddled the rubber dinghy with gunfire.

Palestinian guerrilla groups have tried to infiltrate Israel via the sea in the past.

Iranian envoy

BERNE, April 26. (Reuter): The United States said today it has given up attempts to reverse the appointment as Iranian ambassador to Switzerland of a man it believes led the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979.

A US embassy spokesman said Washington was "deeply disappointed" at the appointment of Seyyed Mohammed Hosseini Malaek, but it had agreed to regard the matter as closed.

Last week the United States protested at Switzerland's decision to accredit Malaek, saying it had evidence he had been a leader of those who took 52 Americans hostage nine years ago.

Local newspapers predicted a final turnout of less than 80 per cent of the nation's eligible voters.



President Roh Tae-Woo and his mother cast their ballots in Seoul. (Reuter wirephoto)

S. Koreans elect new legislature

SEOUL, April 26. (AP): Voters went to the polls today to elect a new National Assembly in the first major test of public confidence in the government of President Roh Tae-Woo.

Roh took office in February under a new constitution that gives the legislature greater powers.

In Seoul, police fired tear gas to break up an early morning demonstration by 50 rock-throwing students protesting the alleged manipulation in favour of the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

Scattered anti-government protests also erupted elsewhere today before the voting began at 13.12 polling stations throughout the country. But there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Most results were expected by tomorrow. Some 26.2 million people were registered to vote.

Disappointment

Six hours after the polls opened, election officials reported a 43.0 percent voter turnout, compared with 45 per cent at the same time in last December's presidential elections.

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Local newspapers predicted a final turnout of less than 80 per cent of the nation's eligible voters.

Mitterrand, Chirac squabble over polls

New Caledonia becomes an issue

PARIS, April 26. (Reuter): New Caledonia has become a hot presidential election issue with the two main contenders squabbling over the validity of the first round vote in France's turbulent South Pacific territory.

Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who won Sunday's first-round vote by a large margin, appealed yesterday to France's highest constitutional body, the Constitutional Council, to cancel the results of the New Caledonia vote.

Trick

He said several polling stations had not opened in the territory, shaken by renewed separatist violence.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, the RPR Gaullist candidate and right-wing challenger to Mitterrand in the second-round poll on May 8, dismissed the president's action as a campaign trick.

Fighting

The New Caledonia returns, from an electorate of 38,000, will have little effect on the outcome of the presidential contest. But in the absence of other major campaign issues, the conflicts there and the Chirac government's response have taken on new importance.

"Candidate Francois Mit-

terrand's demand is a rather shabby trick and I leave it to the Constitutional Council to judge," Chirac told a French television interviewer.

Chirac said he thought that polling in New Caledonia had gone smoothly with little disruption.

Although Mitterrand won 34 per cent of the total votes cast on Sunday and Chirac was far behind with 19 per cent, the result was reversed in New Caledonia. Chirac grabbed 74.7 per cent of the vote and Mitterrand won less than five per cent.

Fighting

The separatists had demanded the cancellation of last Sunday's regional election, the withdrawal of security forces from Ouvéa and the appointment of a mediator to pave the way for a referendum on independence.

The new moves in Gaza came as police arrested more than a dozen Palestinian merchants in Arab East Jerusalem in an effort to end a commercial strike ordered by underground leaders of the 4-1/2-month-old Arab uprising.

A spokeswoman for the UN Relief and Works Agency in Gaza said today the Army was blocking hundreds of residents from reaching jobs in Israel by confiscating their ID cards and ordering them to go through lengthy checks at three government offices before returning them.

Applied

"Lines of hundreds of people are standing in front of these offices," said the spokeswoman, Christine Dabagh. She said the measures were first applied to residents of three refugee camps but seemed aimed at the general population.

Israeli television said the programme was aimed at breaking a tax boycott that has been a tactic of the Palestinian uprising.

Ms Dabagh said authorities were ordering Gazans to report to three separate offices to check if they owe money for taxes, auto registration and insurance, or water and electricity bills.

"It's a kind of punishment," she said. "People haven't been working for so long. Where are they going to get the money?"

NEWS IN BRIEF

E.Germans escape

BERLIN, April 26. (AP): Two East German men slipped past Communist border guards early today, leaned a ladder against the Berlin Wall and climbed over the concrete barrier into West Berlin, police said.

The daring, pre-dawn escape was made from a working class area in the southern part of East Berlin where apartment buildings stand not far from the 4-meter-high (12-foot) wall.

The two men, both 21 years old, were identified by police as bricklayer and a tilerlayer. Their names were not released in accordance with longstanding West Berlin police policy.

Election campaigns

COLOMBO, April 26, (Reuter): Sri Lankan political parties wound up campaigns yesterday for provincial council elections this week that are being boycotted by the main opposition group and threatened with disruption by leftists rebels.

President Junius Jayewardene said the boycott by the Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike meant certain victory for his ruling party in Thursday's voting.

Earthquake

BELGRADE, April 26, (Reuter): An earthquake measuring 5.4 points on the Richter scale shook Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast today, the state news agency Tanjug said.

It said the earthquake at 12:54 am (2254 GMT yesterday) and that the epicentre was near the island of Palagruza in the central Adriatic.

It said no reports of possible damage were yet available.

Shanghai mayor

BEIJING, April 26, (Reuter): A former national economic planner purged for over two decades as a "rightist" has been appointed mayor of Shanghai, China's largest city.

Zhu Rongji took up his post pledging to boost the city's sluggish industrial performance, and half-expense-account banqueting by city officials.

Official newspapers said yesterday that Zhu, former vice-minister of the State Economic Commission, had been appointed by the Shanghai People's Congress to replace Jiang Zemin, who becomes Communist party secretary in 17 Seoul.

Zhu, 60, was the sole candidate for the post of mayor, it said.

Car bomb toll

BEIRUT, April 26, (Reuter): Police in Tripoli found the body of a man believed to be the driver of the bomb-rigged car which killed 67 people and his identity was now known, a legal source said today.

At least 52 people were killed outright and more than 100 wounded when the bomb went off in a busy shopping street in the north Lebanese port on Saturday.

Alaska quake

WASHINGTON, April 26, (AP): A moderate earthquake occurred yesterday in the Gulf of Alaska, the US Geological Survey reported. There was no immediate word on any damage or injuries.

New Israeli measures to end uprising

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 26, (AP): New Israeli attempts to break the Palestinian uprising could temporarily block thousands of residents in the occupied Gaza Strip from reaching jobs in Israel, UN officials and news reports said today.

The new moves in Gaza came as police arrested more than a dozen Palestinian merchants in Arab East Jerusalem in an effort to end a commercial strike ordered by underground leaders of the 4-1/2-month-old Arab uprising.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Iraq bolsters its defences in Faw against Iranian attack

FAW, Iraq, April 26. (UPI): Iraq, having liberated the Faw peninsula in a lightning offensive against Iranian forces, is bringing in more troops, tanks and artillery to bolster its defences against any future attacks by Iran.

Convoys of vehicles carrying large numbers of Iraqi troops could be seen moving yesterday along the rough, muddy road on the outskirts of the southern Iraqi port of Basra to the village of Al Mamir, where Baghdad has set up Faw's first line of defence against Iran.

Dozens of Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers, other vehicles and artillery batteries clawed through the mud of the Al Mamir region on their way to Faw. Some bogged down.

The charred hulls of Iranian tanks, heavy guns and armoured vehicles are scattered along the front, grim reminders of the fierce battle last week that gave Iraq its first big military victory in six years. Iran occupied the Faw peninsula for two years.

The sudden surprise (attack), which astonished the Iranian

troops, was the major factor in achieving victory in a record time, an Iraqi military commander at Faw told reporters yesterday. He said Iraqi forces reclaimed Faw, including its abandoned port terminal, in 35 hours.

"It took the Iranians 47 days to do the same job," he said.

Threat

It remained unclear whether Iraq's recapture of Faw has eliminated the threat of Iranian Silkworm missile attacks against Kuwait and against shipping in the Gulf.

Abandoned Iranian tanks in the Faw area included those of US, Italian, British, Soviet, Polish and Chinese origin.

Iraq's 7th Army Corps Commander, Gen. Maher Abdul Rashid, said Iranian armoury captured after the battle in working condition was sent to the rear and would be displayed during a victory parade in Baghdad.

Rashid said Iraq used a classic pincer movement to trap the Iranians in Faw and force them to flee.

"The 7th Army Corps advan-

ced on the right of the battlefield and the Republican Guards on the left," he said. "They met after sweeping down" to the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which marks the Iran-Iraq border.

An Iraqi flag flew from the ruins of a building with Iranian inscriptions on the wall, but Iranian troops destroyed most of Faw's houses and oil installation before fleeing, Iraqi officers said. The town is 50 miles south of Basra.

"The oil reservoirs and refineries are destroyed," one said.

The new positions of Iranian troops were visible across the Shatt Al Arab from a spit of land on the Iraqi side called Ras Al Bisha.

Iranian gunners fired 160mm long-range guns at reporters taken to the site, forcing them and their military escorts to seek cover in nearby buildings.

As the Iranian shelling subsided, three bridges across the Shatt Al Arab that were built by Iranian engineers to ferry supplies across to Faw were destroyed by an Iraqi air bombardment.

"The 7th Army Corps advan-



HH the Amir yesterday met Sheikh Mohammad Mutwalli Shaarawi.



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, shakes hands with Juma Al Shatti.

Qadisiya Alms Committee helps 58 needy families

THE chairman of the Qadisiya Alms Committee, Ahmed Al Houti has said that the committee was established in 1986 to handle the distribution of alms and financial aid to the needy and achieve social security among Muslims.

He told a local newspaper that the committee's activities were based on God's orders and the sayings of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), which seek to spread feelings of solidarity and brotherhood among all classes of Muslim society.

He said that the committee provided monthly financial aid to 58 families consisting of 300 individuals and that the committee paid KD 21,000 as aid to families each year.

He added that a total of KD 93,599 was set aside by the committee to help people in debt, travellers, patients and people in straitened circumstances, pointing out that financial aid had been given to 633 persons to date.

Projects

He said that the committee received donations, alms and other offerings in the form of clothing, food, and others, which were partly distributed among the needy and poor, and partly used to fund Islamic projects

which included the dissemination of Islamic education in the world, publication for orphans and poor students.

He said that the committee collected donations for the Palestinians, the people in Bangladesh, Mujahideen of Afghanistan and others, as well as for funding the construction of Islamic centres, projects and mosques in the world.

Al Houti urged all donors to deposit financial donations in the committee's Account No. 9/1513 with the Kuwait Finance House, adding that the committee was starting to accept Fit Zakat and donations.

Joint stock company for slaughterhouses

KUWAIT'S Municipal Affairs Committee has decided to refer an application for establishing a joint stock company for slaughterhouses to the Commerce and Industry Ministry for study.

The ministry had received several applications to establish private slaughterhouses and this would limit the role of the municipality in selecting sites for slaughterhouses and in laying

Preliminary designs for the other projects costing an estimated dirhams six millions have been already been approved, the paper said.

It said the projects were part of a major beautification drive in Dubai.

He said that labour was still affected by the economic situation and resolutions on the matter were still unable to resolve the matter.

The statement stressed the independence of labour unions in Kuwait.

The two discussed issues of bilateral importance and cooperation in specific fields.

His message to Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin dealt with issues of mutual interest.

down the specifications.

The committee decided to remove the cattle pens built in south Wafra, and to give stalls at the vegetable markets in Shuwaikh and Riggas to the Salhiya Poultry Company.

It agreed to a request from Kuwait Oil Company for a route of 100 metres width to extend a gas pipeline from north Kuwait to south-east Kuwait.

It agreed to a request from the Electricity and Water Ministry for 4,800 square metres of land for building a main sub-station in north-west Umm Qadair.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir received in his office yesterday HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

A press release by the Amir Diwan said the Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

The Amir also met Sheikh Mohammad Mutwalli Shaarawi.

The Amir Diwan said that the meeting with the Egyptian religious figure was on the occasion of Shaarawi's visit to the country.

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Tanzania on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received the Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed and the Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Mohammed Abd Al Mohsen Al Rifai.

Sheikh Saad also received the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhaher Al Othman and the Minister of Finance Jassim Mohammed Al Khordi.

He also chaired a meeting for the Supreme Council for Petroleum.

Crown Prince hosts Iftar banquet

HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today evening hosted on Iftar banquet at Al Shaab Palace for passengers and crew of the Kuwaiti plane 'Al-Jaberiyah' that was hijacked early April for 16 days.

The banquet was attended by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi, the State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Mohammed Al Mzaideh and members of the delegations that took part in the negotiations aimed at securing the release of the passengers in Mashhad, Larnaca and Algiers in addition to the crews of the special Kuwaiti planes that were assigned with missions related to the efforts to release the passengers.

The Crown Prince and Premier later visited the families of two martyred Kuwaiti youths Abdullah Mohammed Habib Shabib Al Khalidi and Khaled Ayoub Ismail Ayoub Bandar.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

A blow to rumour-mongers

KUWAIT newspapers commented yesterday that candour and freedom of expression characterised Sunday night's dialogue between HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Kuwaiti chief media executives focussing on the Kuwait Airways jet hijack.

The papers pointed out editorially that the Premier's meeting with media executives at his residence mirrored the government's keenness on keeping the public informed of all facts surrounding the hijack ordeal.

The dailies added that Sheikh Saad's media summit should deal a forceful blow to rumour-mongers spreading rumours about an under-the-table handout to the air pirates.

The press was also unequivocal in exhorting the government to rethink its relations with some neighbouring and other countries which kept silent during the crisis and the cold-blooded murder of two hostages on board.

The daily Al Anbar advised the exchange of views as "frank, objective and comprehensive" in that Sheikh Saad did not leave the table before answering all questions put to him.

But the paper stressed that the government should not grant the episode safe passage into oblivion.

It urged a thorough examination of circumstances surrounding the second Kuwaiti hijack incident in three years with a view to preventing the recurrence of such incidents and setting up an investigation committee to determine shortcomings in the line of duty.

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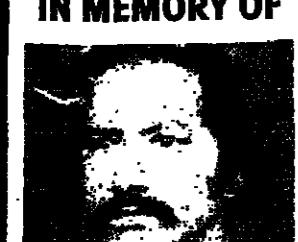
Etienne Aigner Exhibition

The opening will take place at 9.00 p.m. today, Wednesday, 27/4/1988, at Salhiya Trading Complex.

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REQUIEM MASS IN MEMORY OF



AQUINO PAUL PEREIRA
BORN: March 7, 1929
DIED: March 20, 1988 (In
Pune)

Mass will be offered on Thursday, April 28, 1988 at 5.30 p.m. in the chapel attached to the Holy Family Cathedral inserted by friends and ex-colleagues in Kuwait. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

BAHRAYN, April 26. (Reuters): Arab Gulf states control the taps of the world's largest oil reserves but they may soon run out of a more vital resource — fresh water.

Environmental experts and regional water officials say the vast underground reservoir serving all six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council is rapidly sucking seawater into fresh water.

They warn that unless action is taken now Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman will be unable to drink the water in about a decade.

Desalination

"The crisis has already started," UN water consultant Yahia El Maged said during a meeting of international and Gulf water officials held in Bahrain recently.

"The water is a shared resource and if they (Gulf states)

don't take precautions now, the problem will be very critical soon," he said.

Studies show the reservoir has dropped in pressure as so much water is being extracted that underground deposits of salt and brackish water are seeping in.

Costly desalination plants turning seawater into fresh water have sprung up throughout the region in the past decade. The countries are even considering bringing water overland from Turkey.

Security

This project, a multi-billion dollar peace pipeline, would tap water from two Turkish rivers and deliver it to Gulf states at an estimated cost of a dollar per 24 gallons, about the same price as removing the salt from the same quantity of seawater.

Gulf water experts say their citizens use up to 400 gallons (455 litres) a day, more than most other people in the world.

But the main waster of water is agriculture with primitive irrigation using twice as much as is necessary to make the desert bloom.

The increasing brackishness of irrigation water is making the ground increasingly salty and reducing fertility.

"This is an area where lately people have begun abstracting a lot of water for agriculture," Maged said. "They want food security but for this they must have water security."

Salinity

Abdul Latif Buccheeri, head of Bahrain's water resources department, said the London-based Groundwater Development Consultants International predicted the island's water would be undrinkable by the end of the century.

Farms are being abandoned as their wells turn salty. If the situation worsens the improbable plan of towing icebergs to the Gulf to meet the fresh water needs of its inhabitants may not seem so far fetched.

EVENTS

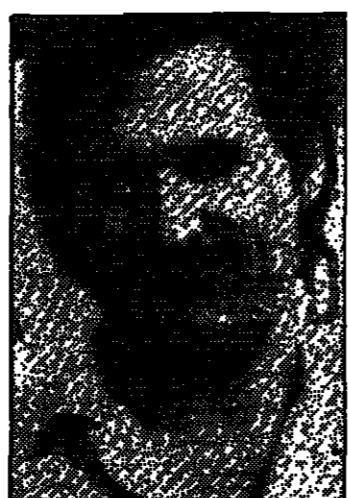
By Gail Seery

WHAT was so good about the fifties? That decade has sparked a lot of recent films, of the *Peggy Sue Gets Married* type, but it is hard to see exactly why. Fifties nostalgia continues with Jeff Bridges' new film, *Nadine*. This is a nicely presented thriller with traces of comedy running throughout, but I came away uncertain of exactly why it was presented as a period piece, when it would have fitted just as snugly as a contemporary story. Perhaps it was because they wanted *Nadine* to wear pretty fifties dresses? Or else because someone at the film studio bought a job lot of old cars? Or perhaps they thought that the violence dished out wasn't quite gruesome enough for the eighties, and apologetically packaged the story in a less turbulent decade?

Not that this film takes too much rational analysis anyway. The wise viewer will not pause to ask himself how the two Reverends came to be playing about with a box of rattlesnakes, which certainly strikes me as a silly thing to be doing, nor indeed, how the father across the chasm between two buildings doesn't actually go ahead and break when it cracks. Nor does he ask what happened to the crooked lawyer, or whether the remaining charges against Vernon Hightower are dropped when he discovers *Nadine* has switched envelopes and that the incriminating documents have somehow been spirited elsewhere. Nor even for that matter, why they chose such a silly name for the lead character.

If you can let all that pass, and didn't recently purchase a snakeskin handbag, and don't have a phobia about snakes, it's actually a very enjoyable film.

Nadine is estranged from her bar-rushing husband, Vernon Hightower, and although she is



Jeff Bridges.

pregnant she is not going to tell him. He is pursuing other "ladies", and at the start of the film it certainly looks like a divorce situation. *Nadine* has

been lured to have some photographs — or, as the photographer calls them, "art studies" taken. She complains that once he told her that he was a close friend of Hugh Heffner of *Playboy* fame, the pictures became a lot more "artistic" than she'd intended. But when she goes to retrieve the photographs, the photographer is murdered, and the envelope she takes away with her, in the belief that it contains her pictures, turns out not to contain any art studies at all, but the probable motive for the man's death. Film makers seem convinced that this type of mix-up is a realistic scenario that happens all the time, and it is used with almost monotonous regularity.

And then, because she is afraid of the dark she lures her ex-husband back to the murdered man's office in an

attempt to locate the correct envelope, and the two get dragged into a series of awkward situations as they thwart and continually re-encounter the big-time crooks.

Jeff Bridges plays the type of role that brought him to fame and the type of role he will doubtless go on playing until he gets too old — that of the young rebel who turns out to have all the personal qualifications to make him a hero. This idea has been used before and it seems to be a major component of the American dream machine. That doesn't necessarily make it any more believable. The formula is similarly predictable throughout and only the vein of humour prevents the film from descending into banality.

Nadine plays a pretty, nagging wife, who runs about shrieking when under fire, and the dialogue between her and her husband is what makes the story a little more than just the same old film in a slightly different setting.

Sentimental epic

By Brian Hollis

STEVEN Spielberg has been nominated for the best director Oscar on several occasions, but so far has never won the coveted trophy. This year was no exception and although *Empire of the Sun* was nominated for several Oscars, it won none. The film is based on J.G. Ballard's novel about the fall of Shanghai and the subsequent war years as seen through the eyes of an English schoolboy who was living there at the time. The book dwells on the boy's efforts to survive in a hostile environment and on the contrast between his view of the events and that of his parents and the other Europeans who



Kangaroo: a trip down under

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Christian Bale in Empire of the Sun

Kangaroo, which is based very much on his personal experience there. The lead characters Richard and Harriet are modelled clearly on Lawrence and his wife. Disenchanted with England, because of its lack of true democracy, they move to Australia where they are befriended by the married couple next door. Through the husband Richard is introduced to Kangaroo, codename for the leader of a private Fascist army who believes political power should only be given to those worthy of it. He wants to smash the labour movement and the unions and take control. At first Richard is intrigued by Kangaroo and his ideal of male comradeship, but the relationship turns sour when violence becomes a means of achieving their goal. Not a film for

Crocodile Dundee fans exactly.

However, the technical elements are near perfect, and Christian Bale as the young hero as well as John Malkovich as Basie the black market king are both very good. Apart from one or two yucky scenes of pure cinematic spectacle, *Empire* is certainly one of the best recent releases.

In 1922, D.H. Lawrence took a trip down under, and as a result came up with a novel

but a thought provoking piece for enthusiasts of *Picnic at the Hanging Rock* maybe, with an excellent performance from award-winning actress Judy Davis.

Danny DeVito's latest film *Throw Momma from the Train* was reviewed a couple of weeks ago. Now his previous film, *Wise Guys* has also been released, and unfortunately it is a funnier film. DeVito works for a mafia gang and unfortunately loses some money he has collected for them on a 'sure thing.' The subsequent chase with Mr Big and his acolytes trying to catch up with DeVito and his buddy, produces some hilarious moments.

Willy Mily is a new teenage comedy with Pamela Segall as a teenage girl who wishes so hard to be a boy that she is granted the appropriate extra bits — with complex repercussions — not bad if your IQ is less than 80.

Rockliffe's Babies is a new and highly rated British crime

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NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait Al Shaab Pharmacy Fahad Al Salem St. Al Loola Pharmacy nr. Dasman complex. Ahmad Al Jaber St. Salmiya and Rumeithiya Markizya Pharmacy Asfoor Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.

series. Ian Hogg stars as Det. Sgt. Alan Rockliffe, an unorthodox CID operator who's last career chance comes as head of the crime squad's office/classroom, whose job it is to knock the rookies into shape.

The Equaliser. Edward Woodward stars in a new British-bestseller called *Codename-Kyri*, a spy story which slowly builds up to an exciting climax.

For those who prefer American soap, this week's offering is *Lincoln*, based on the book by Gore Vidal and detailing the great president's career from his humble beginnings, through the Civil War, and on to his assassination at the theatre.

Children's offerings this week include *The Kermit and Miss Piggy Story* for the little ones and *Trap on Cougar Mountain* for the more adventurous.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Safeway, Video Club and Video Nau.

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I SUPPOSE reviewers get a bit spoiled since they invariably get the best seats in the house to work from, but for the Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance's latest production of "Carnaval" and "Never Ending Story" I found myself consigned to the very back of the audience. I couldn't see the feet of the dancers, and whenever they sank to the floor I'm afraid I lost sight of them altogether. As a result, the following review is strictly of what went on from the knees upwards.

There were two very impressive aspects to the show, the costumes, and the sheer professionalism of the young company. The girls had obviously rehearsed incredibly hard and despite the size of the company there were very few mistakes indeed. This kind of dedication seems typical of the School and deserves tribute.

Dramatic

The first piece, "Carnaval", used a simple, but striking, set with pink colonnades and huge bunches of pink, pale blue and white balloons. The costumes were very gorgeous and made a beautiful spectacle of colour and movement. Harlequin was danced by Hannah Ashmore with great acrobatic agility. There was a beautifully imaginative and exquisitely executed scene where the Maitre danced

with two puppets on a string. A solo by Lama Al Moussa as Sylvestre displayed a fine comic talent. Lama is a superb mimic and her dance with a wind-blown umbrella was a real gem.

Ania Majewska as Columbine was technically very competent but lacked all emotion beyond the painted tears upon her cheek. If she could only

relax a little more, and put a bit more feeling into her performance she would be fine. As it was, she concentrated so hard on getting it right, she missed the soul of the dance. Not that the audience minded, enthusiastic applause punctuated the entire performance.

The second half, "Never Ending Story" was a more

dramatic and demanding piece, although the actual story was pretty soppy. Again, the costumes were quite stunning and Sue Forshaw, the designer, deserves full credit for her contribution which provided just the right professional gloss to the show.

Nadia Dabbagh, one of the puppets in the first half, really

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1988

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

1.00 Holy Quran
1.10 Tin Tin: cartoons
2.00 Al Moa' timid Bin Ibaad: historical serial, starring Osama Al Mashni, Nidal Al Ashqar, Mahmoud Saeed.
3.00 Iftasrat Ramadan
3.35 Dukkan Al Dunya: daily serial, starring Muna Wasef Mohammad Al Ibad, Jayana Eid Tazzaway Wa Ibtsem Lil Hayat: daily serial, featuring Samir Ghanim, Raghdha Ahmad Badar, Suad Nasar Hadith: religious talk
6.30 Cartoons
6.45 After Iftar
7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, featuring Khalid Al Obaid, Abdul Rahman Al Agai Jassim Nabhan, Huda Hussain.
5.30 With Students: Quiz Show

8.30 Folklore: presented by Mohammad Mutairi
9.10 Deir Al Khair: Charity

9.30 Ramadan Contests

10.00 News in Arabic

11.00 Iz-aa: daily serial, featuring Ghanem Al Saleh, Zainab Dahi, Maryam Ghadban, Dawood Hussein

12.00 Late Night Serial: Thamar Al Khouf. Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Hala Fuad, Amina Rizk, Jamil Rateb.

1.00 Late Night Variety Show: Film Min Kitab, prepared and presented by Durraya Shar-ul-din. Tonight's guest Sakina Fuad will talk about cinema and literature.

2.00 News Summary

2.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

Gummi Bears: cartoons.
8.30 Growing Pains
9.00 News in English
9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World

10.30 J.J. Starbuck: "Graveyard Shift". A woman is allegedly killed by her brother-in-law.

11.30 Wildlife on One: "Serpents, Swiftlets, and the Chasm of Gloom."

12.00 Sledge Hammer: Sledge's partner suffers a shock and has temporary amnesia; Sledge pursues a forger.

12.30 Private Eye: Jack rescues a friend from the clutches of black-mailers.

1.30 News Summary

1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 The Adventure of

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 7 to 10 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thuman Al Ghani, Al Soor St.

SOCIAL

Kumustahan

The next Filipino get-together (Kumustahan) will be held from 6 to 9 pm on April 29 at the Church Hall. All Filipinos are welcome. Snacks will be served.

Story Time

Story Time for children will be held on April 28, 10.30 am, for children of ages between three and six at the British Council in Mansouriya. Children of all nationalities are welcome.

YMCA Holiday Special

The Young Men's Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen.

For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

The company will present "The Never Ending Story" 8.30 pm nightly until April 29, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jaber. Tickets — KD 4. The box office at Mousetrap is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 4714518; Mercedes 4890566; Carmello 4835488/232.

Kuwait Players

Antidote — a Kuwait Players show of quick fire adult

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Ice Pirates
Starring: Mary Crosby
Al Salimiya
Latino
Starring: Robert Beltrin
Al Hamra
Police Story
Starring: Jackie Chan
Drive-In
Hikayat Nus Million Dinar (Arabic)
Starring: Yahya Fakhri, Ilham Shahin
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.
Fahsheel Open-Air
Brahmchari (Hindi)
Al Jeeb
Born American

Al Firdous
Ram Balram (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Rekha, Zeenat Aman
Al Fahadh
Shabab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
Al Jabra
War Time
Granada
Al Sharabiya (Arabic)
Salahikha
Accuhibente Veedu (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Bab Nasar (Arabic)
Starring: Bosi, Magdi Wahba, Najwa Fuad

HOTELS

At the Meridien

Indian, Japanese and Chinese food and sweets offered every evening after iftar in the Tea Lounge, until Thursday.

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.44 am
Zahr 11.46
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 6.22
Isha 7.44

came into her own as Atreyu. She has the makings of a real stage presence and manages to fuse emotion and technique in her dancing in a very mature way. She managed to capture the dramatic intensity of the music and although she was ably supported by the rest of the company, her performance really did stand out from the crowd.

Ola Al Bussairi gave a charming performance as the Chidlike Empress and Maha Sarraf looked splendid as the Luckdragon, Falkor. The witches were superbly sinister, their black and silver costumes enhancing the effect. Likewise, the gauzy hoods and cloaks of the dancers in the Swamps of Sadness gave an ethereal quality to their melancholy dance.

To sum up, the show maintains the high professional standards that we have come to expect of Andi Hicks' school. Make-up, sets and costumes were all excellent, and the dancers were so disciplined and enthusiastic that they carried all before them. I felt that Nadia Dabbagh was in a class of her own, but nobody let the side down, each contributing as much as their talents allowed. Lama Al Moussa also deserves praise, and although she does not have the perfect ballerina figure, she does have the knack of conveying emotions, particularly comedy, and that is a rare, and precious gift.

Dancing with delight



Exquisite: a scene from Carnaval

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OUTLOOK

By Kathy Cuddihy

MY daughter's feet are growing so quickly that new shoes barely have a chance to lose their gloss before her toes begin to sprout out of them. My son's feet don't grow particularly fast, but they move at such speed that the friction makes a shambles of both soles and uppers with frightening rapidity. Between the two of them, I seem to spend an inordinate amount of time—and energy—in shoe shops.

I can hear all you logical readers muttering, "Well, why on earth doesn't the woman get smart and buy half a dozen pairs of shoes in graduated sizes?"

Admittedly, the theory is brilliant. Needless to say, the idea flitted through my mind as well. In reality, though, it just doesn't work. Juvenile styles change almost as swiftly as juvenile feet expand. What's "cool" today probably won't be so crash hot by next week. My own particular juveniles may be short (for the time being), but they have pretty big ideas on high fashion. They know exactly what they want—even though it may not have been created yet—and they know exactly what they don't want—even though what they don't want is the only thing that most shoe shops carry.

In an attempt to keep my stress level within manageable bounds, I make a point of never looking at my children's feet. When my daughter comes into the kitchen for breakfast and falls on her face because her toes are scrunchied up so tightly in her too-small shoes ... that's when I know that I can no longer avoid the inevitable. When my son's teacher sends home a note from school saying something like "I must apologise for accidentally stepping on your child's

If the shoe fits . . .



toe, but it was sticking out well beyond the end of his shoe . . . then I know that I can no longer avoid the inevitable. If my luck is strong (I haven't decided whether it's good luck or bad) the kids coordinate these events and one outing takes care of both of them.

Notice I say "one outing" and not "a trip to one shoe shop." Without any need to employ the writer's technique of embellishment, I can confidently confirm that an "outing" easily covers 10-15 shoe shops. If the styles aren't "yucky," "shmucky" or "babish" then the prices are breathtakingly unrealistic in the circumstances.

"Good grief," I gasp at the smooth and sophisticated salesman, "these shoes cost as much as I pay for my own."

"Madam," comes the

bored reply, "the feet are the same size. Why shouldn't the price be the same? However, if you are looking for something less expensive, why don't you try the place down the road? I've heard they're giving away trendy plastic slip-ons when you buy 100 riyals' worth of groceries. You do buy food, don't you, Madam?"

Inevitably, if we find a shop that has acceptably stylish, acceptably priced shoes, they don't have the right size. They don't even have almost the right size. And all the shops with the correct sizes only carry "finky" styles.

Of course, we don't find this out right away. First we must go through a ridiculous charade before having our hopes dashed once and for all.

"Excuse me," I say to the salesman who's

preoccupied with his newspaper and a gooey snack. "Could we please see this model in navy blue in size 36?"

Eventually the man reappears with an armload of shoe boxes. Already I get suspicious. Is he one of those people who think I should buy half a dozen pairs of shoes in graduated sizes?

Out of the first box comes a navy blue shoe. "I beg your pardon, but this style would seem to be a far cry from the one I asked to see."

"True, Madam, but you were insistent that the shoe be navy blue."

"Yes, but I also wanted the style I showed you."

The salesman eagerly dives into another box. "Here is the style you chose, Madam, and it is also the correct size."

"Wonderful, but there is no way that the fluorescent green shoe you are offering me even remotely resembles the NAVY BLUE pair that my daughter has chosen ... in that style."

"Relax yourself, Madam," he says soothingly as he finishes through his pile of boxes.

"Here is the colour and the model you desire."

"But for heaven's sake, man, that shoe has to be at least four sizes too small."

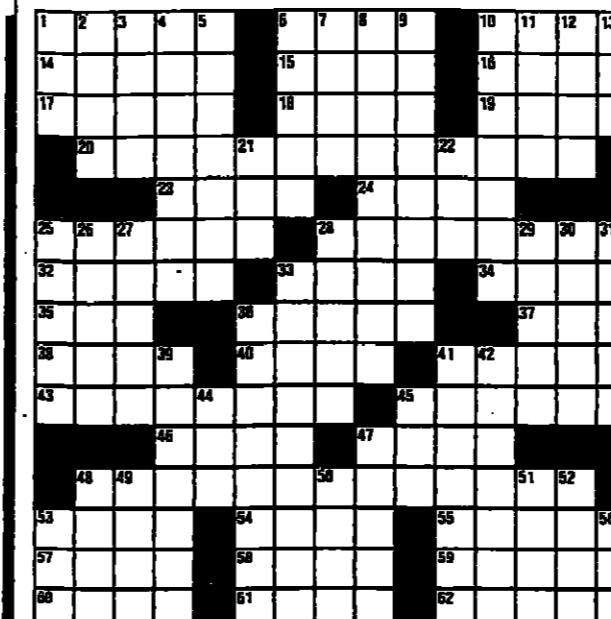
"What can I say, Madam? In this business it is so difficult to please everyone."

In my growing despair, I long for a fashion turnaround when those horrible, brown Oxford lace-ups of yesteryear once again become a standard school requirement but, alas, nowadays kids seem to want to love their shoes before they'll condescend to wear them.

As my frustration (and shoe bills!) increase, I am thinking more and more of the practicalities of going back to basics: whatever happened to good old-fashioned bare feet...?

THE WIZARD OF ID

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Fen
6 Cranes
10 Secure
14 Winged
15 Earthenware
vessel
16 Influence,
informally
17 New
18 Plant part
19 List component
20 Tearful timber
23 Black-eyed
24 Banshee's
outcry
25 To the rear
28 European
plover
32 Conduits
33 Triangular inset
34 Proofreader's
direction
35 Building wing
36 Campus
residences,
for short
37 Vital statistic
38 Always
40 Ancient Olympic
Games site
41 Fragrant wood
43 Where
American
Beauties
flourish
45 Gantry and Rice
46 Feudal worker
47 At the apex
48 Chuckling

28 One of the
Days

29 Author of "The
Cloister and the
Hearth"
30 "The Wand of
Youth"
composer
31 Scoundrel's
stares
33 24-carat
canary
36 Hunting trophy
39 Consequences
41 Too sweet
42 Crowned head
44 Plead
45 Old English
letter
47 Nixon running
mate
48 Moon goddess
49 Dry
50 Thou-shalt-not
51 Pianist
Peter
52 Pavlova
53 Small, sturdy
dog
56 Time zone abbr.

DOWN

1 A — for All
Seasons
2 Under, asea
3 Carry on
4 Make more
precipitous
5 Assistants
6 Antlers
7 Like a bump
on —
8 Future fireflies
9 Surfeits
10 The beans
11 Before bus or
mobile
12 Aviated
13 Shade tree
21 Actor McElennan
22 Illuminated
25 Eastern title
26 Salute
27 Ceramic paving
pieces

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE ODDS DON'T CHANGE

East-West vulnerable. East deals. wasted. Indeed, North's top clubs had no role in the play!

West led the ten of hearts, covered by the jack. East won the ace, cashed the ace of spades and then shifted to the eight of diamonds. Having already seen two aces in East's hand, declarer decided to trust the pleasant-looking gentleman at his right, especially since he had passed in first seat. He selected the anti-percentage play of rising with the ace of diamonds—down one.

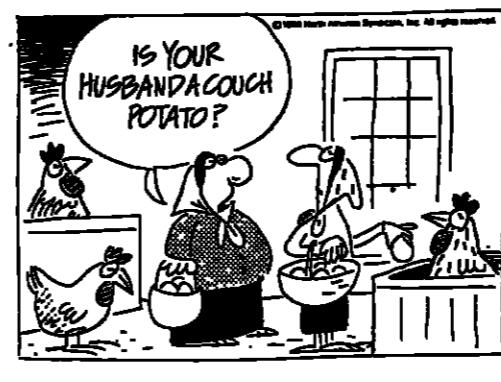
There are several reasons why we think declarer should not have himself be fooled by East's bit of duplicity. First, he should have asked himself why East went out of his way to cash his second ace before leading a trump. Obviously, he was trying to show declarer a hand where, with the king of diamonds as well, he might have opened the bidding. Secondly, the chances of dropping a singleton king are so slight that they could be ignored. Initially, the odds favored a finesse, and that was still the case. And lastly, if East indeed had started with three trumps to the jack, he could simply have returned a heart at trick two and left declarer to take the finesse in peace and quiet and go down.



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	T	R	I	A	B	A	L	M	S
S	Q	U	I	N	T	E	A	L	M
S	O	U	E	L	C	O	U	I	O
O	U	I	L	A	H	S	U	I	T
B	A	R	S	A	K	E	A	M	I
R	E	D	R	I	S	T	A	L	D
D	O	R	A	T	R	N	A	T	N
A	X	E	B	O	N	E	E	N	G
B	A	P	T	I	J	I	G	L	E
E	R	I	C	N	E	A	E	L	N

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to get a move on. Something you heard recently will now come about. Show a friend that you really are a friend. Be less hasty.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to do something a little more practical and useful. Mars' better influence will help you control your emotions. You should avoid saying anything offensive. Be resourceful.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Make sure you do not do something that might be against the law. You should not let anything come between you and your partner. You will be able to make good progress at work. Be determined.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Mars' influence could well give rise to some tension but the general situation is favourable. You should make sure you do not get in anyone's way. Dress correctly for the weather and occasion. Be sincere.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should show a little more latitude when dealing with a family matter. Something that has been puzzling you will become clearer. Make sure you always lock doors and windows behind you. Be considerate.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should look on the bright side and avoid gloomy thoughts. You have every reason to be more confident. Better slowly but surely than quickly but badly. Be considerate.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. You should have a little more patience and forbearance. Something you had feared might happen will not. Be prompt.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will find it easier to get on with others. Something you have predicted will prove to be correct but do not boast about it. Avoid doing anything that would be harmful to your health. Be steadfast.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will tend to be rather nervous. Avoid acting provocatively. The Moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you rather careless, so check on what you do. Do not neglect a personal matter. Be generous.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Events will move quickly but you must avoid doing anything on the spur of the moment. You will have plenty of energy but should beware of dissipating it. Take a little better care of your health. Be reliable.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will tend to be easily irritated and should try hard to control yourself. You should think more of the future, less of the past. Where a personal matter is concerned a little more patience is needed. Be resolute.

Robin Hood robbed of his love life

LONDON, (UPI): After seven centuries, the men of Nottingham have robbed Robin Hood of his love life. Maid Marian, they say, was no more than the figment of a French imagination.

What of the good Friar Tuck? Actually, an amalgam of two monks, one of whom may never have even seen Sherwood forest.

And Robin's boon companion, Little John? A surly, short-tempered sort given to quarreling with the outlaw leader.

This revisionist view of Robin Hood and his apparently not-so-merry men of Sherwood is contained in a new brochure issued by the city council of Nottingham.

It was the 13th century

The brochure says Friar Tuck may have been a mixture of an anonymous fat character familiar to Morris Dances and a 15th century chaplin named Robert Stafford, who existed in Sussex, well south of Nottingham.

Even that business of Robin Hood's robbing the rich to give to the poor may be nonsense, says history graduate Graham Black, who also contributed to the brochure. "There is no evidence for this, even if this is his reputation worldwide," he failed.

BY KATHY CUDDIHY

Thought for today

AMBITION is so powerful a passion in the human breast that however high we reach we are never satisfied — Nicolo Machiavelli, Italian political philosopher (1469-1527).

Hostages left to uncertain fate

By John Beggley

BAHRAIN. (Reuter): When Beirut Airport cleared a Falcon 50 jet for take-off to France this weekend, it underlined the unpredictable plight of hostages being held in Lebanon.

Three Frenchmen, whose freedom could have provided a political coup to contender Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in presidential elections, were left behind to an uncertain fate shared by at least 23 other foreigners.

Disappointed French negotiators flew home after a last minute snag prevented them freeing Marcel Fontaine, Marcel Carton and Jean Paul Kauffmann from three years of captivity.

The three — two diplomats and a journalist — are among dozens of foreign nationals who have been seized in the war-torn country since 1984 in an epidemic of kidnapping. More than two dozen are still held.

Pressures

The victims, mainly diplomats, churchmen, teachers and journalists, were seized by gunmen pressing political demands, airing grievances, seeking cash or sometimes due to mistaken identity.

Varied motives have added to the emotional pressures on relatives and governments, and to the uncertainty about the safety of those held, some in Beirut's sprawling suburbs and some outside the city.

In the four years since the kidnapping epidemic began, some victims have scarcely had time to become accustomed to captivity. For others, the years pass without end in sight.

The longest-held victim, American Terry Anderson, the Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press news agency, has been missing since March 16, 1985.

The lack of any pattern to kidnapping is shown by the long list of victims. The first to be seized in 1984 was the Saudi Arabian consul Hussein Farrash, grabbed on Jan 17 and held by Islamic Jihad until May 1985.

Two Americans were the next victims of gunmen — Malcolm Kerr, the president of the American University of Beirut (AUB), was shot and killed on Jan 18. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility and warned the next day it would strike again until all

Scandal haunts Kohl's party

By Bjorn Edlund

MOELLN, West Germany. (Reuter): The ghost of a state premier who died amid political scandal haunts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) ahead of elections in Schleswig-Holstein state on May 8.

Opinion polls show that Kohl's CDU may well pay for Uwe Barschel's dirty campaign tricks last year against his Social Democrat (SPD) challenger by losing its grip on the northern farming state for the first time in 37 years.

The name of Barschel, who died of an apparent suicide after resigning when his manoeuvring was uncovered by *Der Spiegel* news magazine, is not heard in campaign speeches.

But CDU candidate Heiko Hoffmann, low-key politician entreated with restoring a shattered party image, chose "Politics has a new face" as his campaign poster slogan.

He told *Reuter* that CDU members ask him about Barschel less often as the campaign draws closer to the May 8 ballot, called after a dead heat in last September's scandal elections.

"But he is obviously still very present," Hoffmann said. "He is always at the back of our minds, and will continue to occupy us for a long time to come."

Disavowal

Hoffmann's campaign leaflet oozes disavowal of the rash, headstrong ways Barschel was known for. "A politician with new qualities, a human being who thinks before replying ... he reasons calmly and is willing to listen to the arguments of others."

A posthumous state parliament enquiry said Barschel ordered spying on the sex life of his SPD opponent, Bjoern Engh-

olm, and a false denunciation of Engholm for tax fraud.

"May 8 — a day of wiping the slate clean," says SPD posters adoring town lamp posts throughout this small state bordering Denmark, East Germany, the North Sea and the Baltic.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), which aims at forming a coalition with the CDU, is campaigning as a force to check the power of the CDU.

"The best guarantee against the abuse of power," the FDP posters say.

But polls say that the Liberals, junior partners in Kohl's federal centre-right government, cannot bank on garnering the five percent needed to enter parliament.

Bitterness

Starting anew, leaving Barschel behind, atoning for his excesses, is the recurring under-tone of the campaign. But CDU strategists say lingering bitterness may cause many of its traditional voters to abstain.

Constant bickering in the coalition, especially between the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), does little to help the CDU candidate the state.

But the SPD's Engholm, badly shaken last year by what the West German press dubbed "The Barschel Affair," said he was enjoying the novel air of decency in state politics.

"The tone is totally different now," he told *Reuter* at a campaign stop in Ploen, a small town in an area of hills and lakes called the Switzerland of Holstein.

"I have not heard any personal attacks at all," he said.

"This allows the campaign to concentrate on the issues, which I prefer. But it makes things boring for people who are used to the shrill tones of German politics, and who won't listen unless you call the other fellow an idiot."

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Rising drop-out rates, shortage of quality teachers in US

Neglect of minority education

By Persia Walker

NEW YORK (AP): While top US schools turn out a steady stream of students who jostle for places at prestigious colleges, others are understaffed and overcrowded. They battle low morale, rising dropout rates and a dearth of quality teachers.

Critics say the school reform movement that gained momentum in the early 1980s has been irrelevant to the most deeply troubled US schools, which are largely attended by minorities and the poor.

"We can no longer afford to educate a few children well," said Mary Hawwood Futrell, the head of the National Education Association.

"We must educate all children well because the children I have described will become the workers and leaders of the society," the teachers' union president said.

Poor education has left millions of Americans unable to read or write well enough to perform in a job market that increasingly requires the ability to analyse concepts and apply technical theory, said Jorie Mark of the US Department of Education, which serves mainly in an advisory and policy making capacity.

Thousands of future wage-earners, meanwhile, are quitting school. The graduation rate from public high schools in 1986 was 71.5 per cent, down from 71.7 per cent in 1985, according to government figures.

As for those students who do stay in school, Secretary of Education William Bennett recently concluded: "The news is not what it should be. Test scores are in a dead stall."

American youngsters taking part in an study conducted from 1983-1986 involving more than 200,000 science students in 24 nations scored well below their non-US counterparts.

"We do not move our kids fast enough and we do not have high enough expectations of them along the way," Chester E. Finn Jr, the education department's assistant secretary for research and improvement, said.

The United States has a decentralised system of education in which state governments set broad mandates, such as the number of years a student must study a subject.

However, local district officials often decide the specifics of what students learn and how they are taught.

Wide regional differences exist in expectations for academic achievement and the nation's 12.5 million public high school students need meet no national standards for graduation.

In 1983, government advisers issued a report, "A nation at risk," that warned of "a rising tide of mediocrity" in US schools and spurred many states to further toughen graduation standards and boost teacher salaries.

Educators looked to the past for clues on preparing students for the future. The "back-to-basics" approach — renewed stress on reading, writing and arithmetic — seemed the answer. They urged more homework, more testing and more requirements for graduation.

But some now say "basics" are not enough.

Bella Rosenberg, assistant to the president of the American Federation of Teachers, said the early emphasis was "misguided."

It was on "more and slightly better of the same old things," the assumption being that the same old things worked in the past and would work again. That's why we're having the trouble we're having," she said.

Early reform efforts focused on mathematics and science and the need to keep the nation strong technologically. Scant attention was paid to history and literature as a means of cultivating intelligence and judgement.

Emphasis

But the past year has seen a new emphasis on cultural literacy. Many now argue that what US students need is not computers but an understanding of their own history and the culture of other nations.

This push to expand the focus of reform comes at a time when the US student population "is changing dramatically," said Mrs Futrell.

The number of minority children in schools will double by the turn of the century, "going from 18 or 19 per cent to about 35 per cent," she said.

More students also will be from low-income families, she added.

"By the year 2020, unless the situation is changed, about half the students coming into the

schools will be from families living in poverty."

Many children will be from homes where English is not the first language, where there is only one parent or where the mothers are teenagers, she said.

Meanwhile, the nation is faced with a lack of strong public school teachers in general and minority teachers in particular, Mrs Futrell said.

"The number of minority teachers is falling precipitously. It has dropped from 12 per cent to 8 per cent, and it's predicted that by the mid-1990s, it will be down to about 3 per cent. This is occurring at a time when the minority population is increasing," she said.

Dissatisfied

Teachers claim their salaries and working conditions dissuade young people from entering the field, but critics say educators should earn no more than they're worth in the classroom and want salary linked to student performance.

One New York School district has increased salaries so the average teacher earns \$40,000 a year. But it has also made teachers more accountable for what happens in their classrooms.

The average salary for the nation's 2.2 million public school teachers is under 27,000 dollars, according to the NEA.

Five years after "A Nation At Risk," the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching concluded that a reform movement launched to upgrade the education of all students is irrelevant to many children — largely black and Hispanic — in our urban schools.

In almost every big city, dropout rates are high, morale is low, facilities often are old and unattractive and school leadership is crippled by a web of regulations," the research institute said.

Students at New York City's Park West High School have been known to carry machetes and switchblades. State education inspectors have described student stabbing and tense relations among black, Puerto Rican, Dominican and Haitian students. The dropout rate is so high, that graduating seniors comprise only 7 per cent of the school.

One way in which the US government has tried to address such problems is the "Magnet school" programme, which is designed to promote stability and voluntary school desegregation.

Magnets offer something special besides the regular fare of literature, history, mathematics and science in the hope that students of all races would be lured to schools with programmes unavailable elsewhere.

In the case of John Wilson Junior high school, it's communications.

Attended by nearly 1,000 students aged 12-16, the school sits in a New York City neighbourhood that's home to blacks, whites, Jews, Hispanics and Asians.

It has a small but well-equipped television studio in its basement, built at a cost of roughly \$500,000 in government funding.

First year students take classes in broadcasting; those with aptitude continue those studies. Seniors assemble TV programmes — conducting their own research, interviews and filming. The shows air weekly on local cable television.

Principal Victor Navarro said career awareness is one aspect of the programme and "exposure to the forefront of where society is going" is another.

QUESTION: Is there a method of taking insulin by "sniffing" it?

ANSWER: Yes, there is, and in research studies it is proving to be very effective when used in combination with insulin injections.

Called "intranasal," it is a form of insulin that one sniffs (but don't try sniffing insulin that was made to be injected, it will not work that way). Intranasal insulin very closely resembles the type made in the body and someday may be able to replace mealtime insulin injections. It can be taken just before or after meals, and some researchers say it offers slightly better control than insulin which is injected. Also, it seems to alleviate the need to be extremely punctual about

TEAR DUCTS CHANGE WITH AGE

and painless procedure, which usually clears up situations such as yours. If that fails, you may require a major operation called a dacryocystorhinostomy, which forms a new channel for your tears to drain into your nose. This is a delicate operation and is performed only in cases where the person suffers from repeated eye infections.

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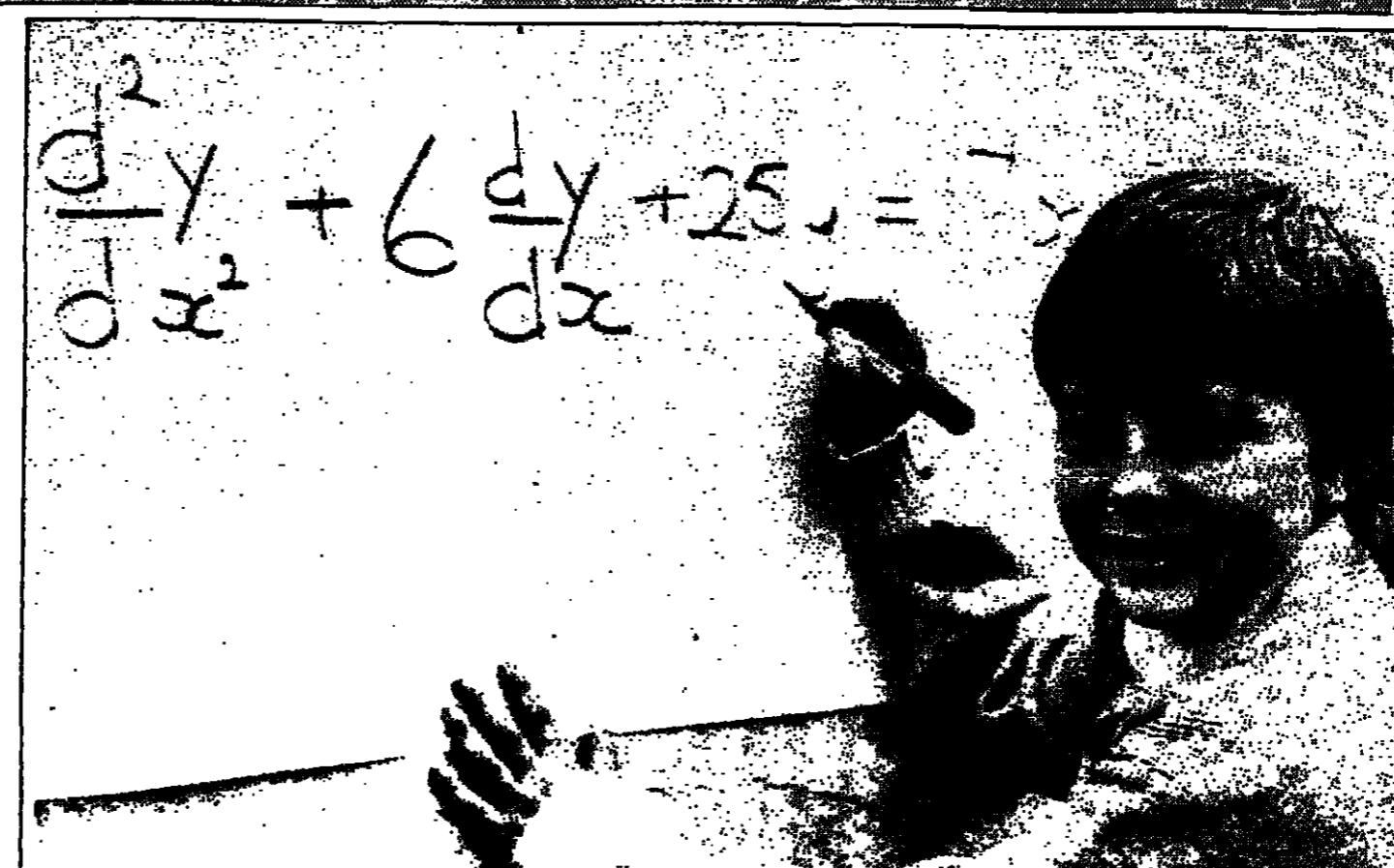
someday may be able to replace mealtime insulin injections. It can be taken just before or after meals, and some researchers say it offers slightly better control than insulin which is injected. Also, it seems to alleviate the need to be extremely punctual about

meal schedules and can decrease the incidence of low blood sugar reactions.

However, much more research must be done to completely prove all that appears to be offered by intranasal insulin before it can be made available for prescribing. Additionally, intranasal insulin, when it does gain approval from the FDA, probably will be used as an adjunct to insulin injections — not as a complete replacement.

I thought you would like to know. When a terminal disease strikes, thoughts turn to providing the patient with as much care and comfort as possible, to make those last days as full and comfortable as possible. That's the philosophy of hospice care. Hospice care affirms life and regards dying as a normal process. It neither hastens nor postpones death. If you have a loved one who may benefit from such care, it is important for you to get all the information and answers you need.

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Nine-year-old John Adams, the youngest person to pass A level exams in the UK. The A level results determine whether a youngster can go on to a university.

UK government strives to upgrade standards

Students ill-prepared for 21st century

By Larry Thorson

LONDON (AP): British schools are the target of a government drive to upgrade standards, prompted by concern that lower-achievers are ill-prepared for the challenges of the 21st century.

Critics in government, education and industry also say more must be done to help the poor acquire the knowledge and skills that will help Britain compete in the world marketplace.

In 1987, only 14 per cent of British youngsters aged 18-19 were still in classes, a figure the government hopes to raise to 20 per cent by the year 2000.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has emphasised educational reforms during her third term. However, some critics say her administration is itself to blame for the system's shortcomings.

These critics say schools were

neglected and underfinanced through Mrs Thatcher's first two terms, leading to poor performance at inner-city schools and a brain drain of scientists to more challenging and lucrative jobs abroad.

The government has submitted to parliament an education bill that would impose a national, uniform curriculum stressing hard academic subjects and regular student testing.

The proposal has met sharp opposition from the national union of teachers, which says the emphasis on targets and testing "will create a damaging hierarchy between individual children, classes and schools, which will depress educational standards."

Education Secretary Kenneth Baker reports: "Part of the system won't like this, because they're accustomed to the old, relaxed way of doing things."

The bill is expected to pass, since Mrs Thatcher has a majority in the House of Com-

mons. It may be amended, but the government is confident that the major elements have a wide range of public support.

A reform of the standard tests given to 15- to 16-year-old pupils will have its first trial in June. The old O level — O for ordinary — tests will be replaced by examinations for the General Certificate of Secondary Education. Where the O level tests determined how well a pupil remembers facts, the new tests explore a student's ability to apply knowledge to solve real problems.

The A level tests — A for advance — will still be given at about age 18 to pupils who have remained in school two more years.

The A level results determine whether a youngster can go on to university, enter professional training or be considered for good jobs.

The same tests are given to pupils in state and private

schools — the latter have about 6 per cent of the total school population.

Polls indicate Britons generally are satisfied with the performance of their schools, which are attended by about 7 million children through secondary level. But many people believe more money should be spent on education.

The government is proposing that inner cities receive 20 new secondary schools over the next three years that stress technology.

The new schools will require students to continue a foreign language and science through age 16. Now most can drop such subjects at age 14. The practice leaves schools open to the charge of permitting students to specialise too early and miss a broader education.

The government also plans to allocate 100 million pounds (180 million US dollars) over the next seven years to increase the number of graduates with business training.

French education criticised as misfit in a modern world

By Elaine Ganley

PARIS (AP): France's education system, admired abroad for its rigorous, time-proven methods, is a source of concern at home where it is increasingly regarded as a misfit in the modern world.

Tough standards and a rigid, selective system grooms academically-minded students for the dreaded baccalaureat (high school exit) exam and university.

But most students are steered toward technical or professional training, their futures sometimes determined in early adolescence.

"The fundamental problems with French education is that it is an extremely selective system and leaves aside too large a proportion of youth who don't finish their studies," said Olivier Bertrand of the government-run centre for the study and research of education issues.

About 42-43 per cent of French students finish high school and some 22-23 percent pursue higher studies at a university or prestigious "grand ecole", according to Bertrand.

About 46 per cent of French students receive a "professional preparation" for a specific trade, be it in a hospital or a bakery.

"We are conscious these people are no longer adapted to the economic and social needs of today," said Bertrand. "If you compare it to countries like the United States or Japan, we are far behind."

The Paris-based organisation for economic cooperation and development, which seeks to promote economic and social development in its 19 member countries, agrees with the critics of the French system:

"The education system is geared toward helping the academically inclined. It is in fact a highly selective system which eliminates the weaker pupils at each different level and tends to brand them as losers," it said in a 1984 report on youth employment in France.

"The 'Grandes Ecoles' perhaps represent the ultimate example of selection in the education system. Since the 18th century, higher education in France has been dominated by the elite, specialised schools — not universities — which turn out the future leaders of government and industry.

One of the "Grandes Ecoles" is the Ecole Nationale D'Administration, whose graduates have a near-monopoly on top jobs in the government bureaucracy and figure prominently in politics.

Another is L'ecole Polytechnique, run by the Defence Ministry, which turns out most of the nation's top engineers, many of whom become chief executives in state-owned or private industries.

Looking toward a more competitive continent when the European Economic Community's open border policy starts in 1992, France is scrutinizing its education system and finding it headed for, or already in, a state of crisis.

Students ill-prepared for the job market, a lack of funds, a top-heavy structure and an aging, diminishing university teaching corps are among its problems.

The student's lot is determined in a process of selection that starts at about age 13 based on performance in French and mathematics. Any student who goes on to obtain a baccalaureat can enter a university.

There is almost universal agreement that the 78 state-run universities need to be reformed, but successive governments have faced a student broadside in trying to do so.



Japanese students involved in practical work at a technical high school.

According to a test conducted by the Stockholm-based International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement from 1983-1986, Japanese 10-year-olds, along with their Korean and Finnish counterparts, scored around 15.4 out of 24 possible correct answers to science questions.

US students scored just below the middle of the scale at 13.2.

Beneath the national pride afforded by a 99 per cent literacy rate, critics say the Japanese education system instituted under a lied occupation has begun to falter.

Students are under intense pressure to pass entrance exams for schools affiliated with prestigious universities. The competition is cut-throat; failure can throw students into fatal depressions.

Scholastic pressure usually ranks as the No.1 reason in national police agency reports for driving youths to suicide. In 1986, 136 youths killed themselves because of school. Last

year, the number totalled 207.

Increasing violence at school has also been attributed in part to academic pressures. Bullying — physical or verbal — was blamed for at least 10 suicides in 1986.

The scramble for top-class institutions has created the "juku," or cram school, where students pile into classes after a regular school day for more grueling lectures late into the evening.

Critics maintain this effort to gain an academic edge has downplayed the role of school and made attendance at juku a prerequisite for high exam scores.

"School is fun," says 13-year-old Goichi Okada, one of the top students at Kakio elementary school's sixth grade class. Goichi has been attending juku since the third grade often coming home after 9 p.m. at times, he hits the books even after cram school.

"Because the juku is harder than school, I don't study too much for school," Goichi

Painting the rich and famous

By Kate Molloy

AFTER painting the world's most glittering stars, artist Juliet Pannett is about to embark on the ultimate challenge — she will paint the Queen.

And it will not be her first encounter with the royal family, for Juliet has already painted the princes Andrew and Edward, to the delight of their mother.

Juliet heard the wonderful news that she had been selected to do the official painting of the Queen, when the Chartered Insurance Institute asked her if she would be willing to take the job.

She explained: "I didn't hesitate when I was asked and agreed immediately. I never thought I would be so lucky."

After a lifetime of drawing celebrities like Sophia Loren, the Princes Andrew and Edward, Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill, royal artist Juliet Pannett has achieved her ultimate ambition — she will paint the Queen.

The commission is for a large oil painting roughly 50in by 40in and the Queen has agreed to sit for Juliet at Buckingham Palace.

The commission to paint the Queen is a fitting reward, for a woman who has captured the youthful beauty of a young Sophia Loren, the strength of Winston Churchill, charm of Duke Ellington, cool of Margaret Thatcher and genius of Yehudi Menuhin.

Yet one of her most enjoyable commissions came when she was asked to paint the young princes, Andrew and Edward.

She recalled: "I was first asked to paint Prince Andrew, aged 14, for the Queen by the Worshipful Company of Painters and Stainers. And the Queen was so pleased with it she asked me to paint Prince Edward for her.

Prince Andrew was the most

amusing and had a small transistor radio on his lap. He was listening to radio presenter Terry Wogan and was shrieking with laughter at his jokes. This was wonderful, because I managed to capture a very jolly expression on his face.

Prince Edward was much more serious, although he was still very charming. He listened to Katchaturian and Mendelssohn on tape and seemed totally absorbed by the music.

Whilst Juliet confessed that she disliked painting movie stars, she did admit to having a soft spot for Sophia Loren. The royal artist went on: "Sophia Loren was a lovely lady, but I felt quite embarrassed because I did not know anything about the movies. I went to Pinewood Studios for the day to do some sketching and found myself on the set with Sophia Loren, whilst she was filming *The Key*.

"Every time the cameras stopped rolling she would sit in her chair in front of me and I would sketch as fast as I could before, she was called back for another scene. She was very pleasant, although she couldn't speak much English at the time and was quite shy."

Juliet's career began when she became an artist for the Illustrated London Daily News and was the only member of the press, allowed to sketch in the House of Commons.

It was there that Juliet managed to sketch her famous impression of Winston Churchill, as he left the Commons for the last time.

She recalled: "It was a very inspiring moment, although it happened in a flash and I had to capture it very quickly."

Apart from Winston Churchill, Juliet has painted many other Prime Ministers including Harold Wilson, Margaret Thatcher and Jim Callaghan.

But it was Margaret Thatcher, who she first met at the Press Club in 1964 who impressed her most. As she explained: "The club invited Mrs Thatcher to dinner and she was a very nice lady, not hard at all like people think she is.

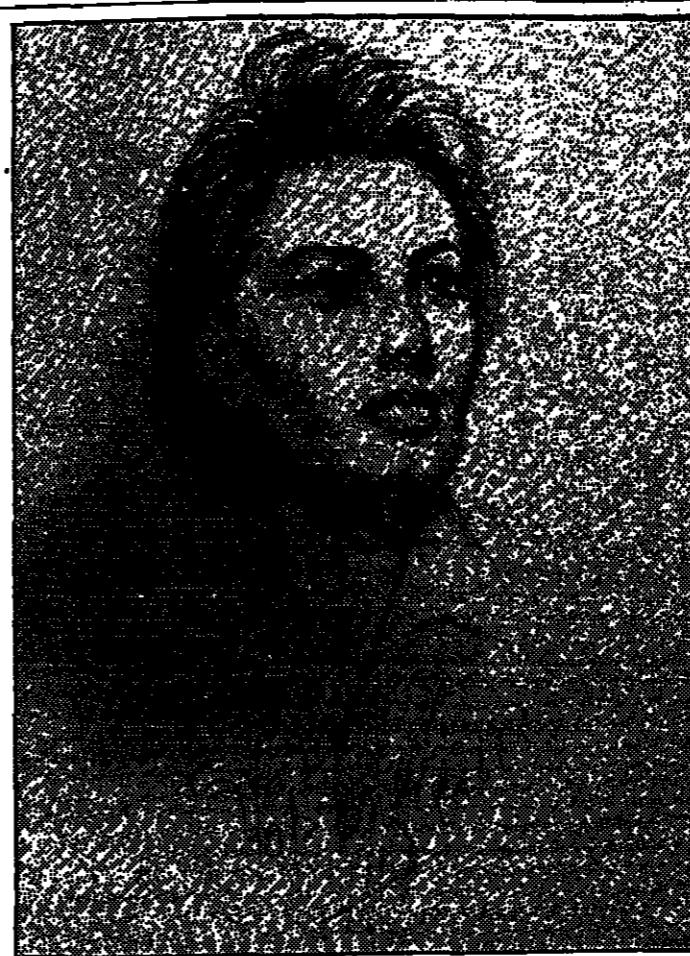
"When she became Prime Minister the Conservative Association asked me to do some drawings of her. And I sat in the front row of the Party Conference in 1979, to sketch her in action. It was really exciting to be involved in party business and I was later told that she loved my paintings."

But Juliet's real love is painting musicians, and among her collection of sketches is Yehudi Menuhin and Duke Ellington.

She went on: "I love to capture musicians in action or at work. I find the concentration on their faces a real challenge.

"I remember when I first met Duke Ellington. I had been to a concert of his at Fairfield Hall and went backstage to see him.

"I asked him if he would



A sketch of actress Sophia Loren (left) and musician Duke Ellington (right)

mind if I did some sketches of him. He was delighted. Duke gave me special permission to

sit with the jazz band in the orchestra and sketch.



"It was fantastic, I felt a part

of it all. Sadly he is dead now, but his music and my sketches live on."

Juliet's life has been full of great people and great paintings. And looking back, she says that she can not remember a time when she was not painting. After leaving art school she set up her own studio in Hove, Sussex. And after a few years moved to London for her big break.

But, after a lifetime of successful work there is one great challenge left and Juliet can not wait to begin her ultimate painting.

She said: "I know that I can only do my best, but I really hope that the Queen is happy with my painting. I believe that artists improve with age and feel now I am ready to create my finest portrait — for Her Majesty."

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Artist Juliet Pannett, gets to grips with her latest portrait.

The dance-mad, fluffy robot that laughs, cries and sulks

Scamp (Self-Contained Autonomous Mobile with Personality) is a computerised creature that is as intelligent as a hamster. The robot is programmed with software that makes it the first toy to have a 'mind' of its own.

By Adrian Berry

ENID BLYTON wrote a story about toys that move around the nursery at night baffling their young owner, Amelia Jane. Recently I met just such a toy, the first of its kind in the world and a major advance in the art of teaching machines to "think."

Scamp (Self-Contained Autonomous Mobile with Personality) is a computerised creature that has just been made by Richard Pawson, head of a Henley-based company which manufactures industrial robots and a long-time enthusiast for "thinking" machines.

But Scamp is about as intelligent as a hamster, according to Pawson. The robot is programmed with software that makes it the first toy to have a "mind" of its own; you cannot give it orders or predict its conduct exactly.

Scamp's head can tilt and the eyelids open and shut. It is an extraordinary-looking fluffy-coated thing, 16 in tall and unlike any known animal. For example, not many furry animals move on wheels, and very few indeed have five infared eyes to see with.

Scamp speaks. Scamp talk: more than 300 different whines, grunts and bleeps emanate from a loudspeaker mounted in its body. Each one indicates that the toy is experiencing one or more of 12 "emotions" ...

Sometimes Scamp is affectionate, calls to people in a strange shrill voice and follows them. At other times the creature is bored, yawns and prowls the room restlessly, looking for something of interest. When contented it sits apparently well satisfied with the surroundings. Then again, it demonstrates curiosity, a state in which everything must be investigated.

Intriguing There is an intriguing tendency to succumb to dance fever, when it leaps up and down, particularly to rock music. Fatigue is recognisable by apparent "loss of breath" and drooping eyelids, but is not to be confused with sleepiness, a sign that the batteries are running low.

Scamp can feel fear, characterised by rapid head movements, and running away or trying to hide. Irritation, manifested if it bumps into



Scamp and his creator Richard Pawson

something or if it is picked up unexpectedly, can be shown by a refusal to play games and by starts.

Conversely, it can display sadness by moping and whining and loneliness by seeking out a human companion and clinging. When feeling playful it romps around and tries to engage a human in a game.

Scamp has other endearing traits. If stroked, it will make contented noises. Scamp appears to enjoy playing *Steal It*, where you remove one of its possessions while its eyes are closed. If the eyes open and you are seen moving, you lose; sometimes Scamp cheats by pretending to close its eyes.

You can never tell exactly how it will react to a given stimulus. Its behaviour is predictable, never certain.

"It is by no means random, but there are random elements in it," Pawson says. "Everything that happens to it affects more than one of its emotions. You can't always be sure which of them has been affected the most strongly. If you had two Scamps, there would be subtle differences in their behaviour

and their reaction to events. In this, Scamp has complex personality, almost like that of a cat or a dog.

"A programmer can change the emphasis and pattern of its emotions, but to the user it remains unpredictable. We can say that it is aware of its own existence, since it can observe the consequences of its actions. No computer can do that, but a robot can."

Building Scamp was a primitive exercise in trying to pass the *Turing Test* — devised in 1960 by mathematician Alan Turing to determine whether a machine is intelligent. Turing had only contempt for the arid philosophical question: "What do we mean by intelligence?" He stated that if a machine appears to be intelligent, and if there is no test of whether its intelligence is real or faked, then it must be considered intelligent.

Turing believed that by the year 2000 machines more intelligent than humans might be built. This may be optimistic, but Scamp will surely be regarded as a milestone along the way.

By Philip Pullella

TURIN, Italy. (Reuters) — Organisers of a convention assessing Satan's impact on religious and cultural history have found that it is easier to raise hell than to raise cash.

Controversy over the attempt by a group of Turin academics and a theologian to shed scientific light on the prince of darkness, and warnings of doom from local black magicians, have frightened off wary sponsors.

Organisers have been left with only a fraction of the funds they need.

The month-long convention, planned for October and entitled "Devils, Demons and Dialogues," was the brainchild of three Turin university professors, a Jesuit theologian and a public relations specialist.

The aim of the convention, which newspapers called *Turin's cultural event of the year*, was to study in detail how the devil and the concept of evil have influenced popular traditions, literature, art, music and religion.

It was to have mounted an

exhibition in Turin's former royal palace of international art works portraying the devil and evil as well as masks and trinkets from various cultures.

Films ranging from Ingmar Bergman's *The Devil's Wanton* to Roman Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby* were planned, and also readings of Dante's *Inferno* and Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Operas and music with "diabolic" themes such as Gounod's *Faust* would be staged. Philosophers, psychologists, theologians and exorcists from around the world would lecture on evil.

"Everything was going fairly well," said Maria Teresa Gatti, head of a public relations firm organising the project.

The mayor was interested and so were the provincial and regional governments. Banks and companies we sounded out for contributions asked to see more details of the plan," she said.

Then, as some newspapers put it, all hell broke loose.

Antonio Craxi, brother of Italy's former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and member of an Indian religious sect, was not pleased. If Turin was to sponsor the devil convention he

wanted money from the city for his own exhibition on "human values."

Turin's black magicians — who are listed in the phone book of this city, said to be a centre of the occult, sorcery and devil worship — warned that such prolonged concentration of attention to evil could conjure up an unprecedented disaster.

Overjoyed

Local Roman Catholic church groups were not overjoyed that the convention would coincide with year-long commemorations of Turin's St John Bosco, founder of the Salesian religious orders, and Pope John Paul's visit to Turin in September.

Gatti said the project was hurt by "esoteric groups seeking free publicity." She added: "This is an intellectual and even somewhat light-hearted attempt to discuss the devil and evil."

Sponsors were not worried about the convention's content, she said, but about the result the furore has had on the image of the hard-working industrial city, home of the Fiat motor company.

"People are now thinking three times before signing up,"

she said. "Banks are afraid they might lose customers."

Father Eugenio Costa, head of Turin's Jesuit theological centre and one of the convention's principal organisers, was surprised by all the fuss.

Recalled "Some of those who recoiled at the idea, such as the so-called magicians, were simply upset that their view of evil was going to be questioned in an intellectual way," said Costa.

A round, balding man with a jolly laugh who wears a necktie instead of a priest's collar, Costa said he now felt more of a challenge to bring the convention off in some form.

"We were caught unawares by the controversy but I feel more stimulated by all this reaction, which in a sense has been a sort of mini-convention in itself," he said.

Turin's cardinal Anastasio Ballesterro, who in 1986 named six official exorcists for his diocese, asked Costa to stay in the planning group but to guard against the convention getting out of control.

Gatti, Costa and other organisers are now hoping the fuss will die down enough for them to seek more funds.

The Turin city council

approved a grant of about 100,000 dollars — less than 10 per cent of the funds organisers originally estimated would be needed.

Unless more money is found the event will have to be cut back drastically in duration and scope — perhaps a week of lectures without exhibitions, concerts, films and catalogues.

In Italy, where polls say more than 30 per cent of Catholics believe the devil exists, academic and journalistic fascination with the demon resurfaced in 1986, when the Pope warned repeatedly of Satan's perpetual crusade against good.

Since then, hardly a week has passed without talk of the devil appearing in Italian newspapers, accompanied by medieval etchings of the demon with horns and tail.

Milan's respected *Corriere Della Sera* recently dedicated the front page of its weekly science section to the devil.

The monthly journal *Prospettive Nel Mondo* (world perspectives) ran an issue called "The Return of The Devil," including a bibliography and a filmography on where Satan could be found in books and movies.

£170,000 for a heap of bones

Dr Michael Bassett has just paid £170,000 for 367 battered bones. Together they form a 65 million-year-old *Edmontosaurus* — a giant dinosaur .. predictably nicknamed Bones

By Jane Easterman

DINOSAUR-mad Dr Michael Bassett has just clinched the deal of a life-time ... by paying

£170,000 for a heap of old bones.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

South Korea plans liberalisation of gold imports

SEOUL, South Korea, April 26, (AP): The government is planning total liberalisation of gold imports to try to hold down South Korea's growing current account surplus and head off friction with major trading countries, a news report said today.

The Korea Economic Daily quoted unidentified officials as saying the plan was prompted by a rapid rise in South Korea's current account surplus in the first three months of 1988.

No official confirmation was immediately available.

The surplus between January and March rose to \$2.9 billion dollars, up \$800 million from the same period last year.

The government hopes the year-end current account surplus will not exceed \$7 billion.

Trends

The daily said the government feared that at present trends, the surplus could exceed \$10 billion by year-end, intensifying pressure from the United States and other countries for South Korea to open its market wider and revalue its won currency.

The daily quoted the same sources as saying the United States was among countries from which South Korea plans to import gold.

The government has so far virtually banned the private sector from importing gold by designating the precious metal as a luxury item, except for essential industrial use.

The report also said the planned import of gold bullion would help end gold-smuggling into the country, annually estimated at 7 tons worth 100 billion won (\$135 million). It said the current domestic price of gold is about 30 per cent higher than international prices.

Kuwait expands retail petrol stations in West Europe

CAIRO, April 26, (Xinhua): Kuwait is expanding its retail gasoline stations in various West European countries apart from wholesale of its crude oil.

According to an article in the latest issue of "Middle East Economic Digest," the London-based Kuwait Petroleum International now runs, 4,650 petro stations in many West European cities after investing about \$300 million in the past five years to acquire retail outlets.

Kuwait oil products now account for 20 per cent of the retail market in Denmark, 12 per cent in Luxembourg, 11 per cent in Belgium, 10 per cent in the Netherlands, 8 per cent in Sweden, 4 per cent in Italy and 2 per cent in Britain.

It has also got long-term contracts to supply fuel to airports.

Kuwait is also planning to have a retail distribution network in Federal Germany, France and Spain and is looking for an opportunity in the Far East, according to managing director of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Al Jaber Al Sabah.

Call to promote Indo-Pakistan trade ties

NEW DELHI, April 26, (Xinhua): Indian traders and industrialists have underlined the need for an Indo-Pakistan bilateral trade agreement to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In a latest bulletin published by the Indo-Pakistan desk of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, it has been stressed that before concluding any such agreement the two governments should involve representatives of the private sectors in the deliberations of the Indo-Pakistani joint commission.

For meaningful trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, steps should be taken to ensure that the existing hurdles were removed, the bulletin said.

It suggested that the two governments should seriously consider the opening of the Wagah border between Punjab state of India and Punjab province of Pakistan to facilitate an easy flow of trade.

To encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations, necessary travel and visa arrangements should be simplified, it added.

The bulletin said free movement of export-import trade through land borders should be allowed and steps be taken to promote increased participation in trade fairs and exhibition in each other's country.

Despite forecasts

Crash doesn't usher in recession

WASHINGTON, April 26, (AP): It was the doomsday that didn't happen. The October stock market collapse, instead of ushering in a recession or worse, has been almost a non-event as far as the US economy is concerned.

At least that's the opinion of many economists who have been watching with amazement as a string of economic statistics have shown better-than-expected growth this year.

Employment gains have pushed the jobless rate down to a nine-year low, consumer spending, especially for autos, has been robust, and American manufacturers are enjoying booming exports.

It wasn't supposed to happen this way. Right after Oct. 19, many analysts feared that the record 508-point drop in the

stock market would spell 1929 all over again.

After a loss of trillion dollars in wealth, nervous consumers would stop spending. Manufacturers, caught with huge inventories of unsold goods, would cut back production and lay off workers. That would push the unemployment rate up and further erode consumer confidence.

The result, according to those post-crash forecasts: a recession starting in the first quarter of 1988.

But many economists believe that instead of declining, the overall economy, as measured by the gross national product, rose at a respectable annual rate of two per cent or better from January through March. The government will provide the first official look at the GNP today.

So what went right?

In the view of economists, the simple answer is that employers, instead of cutting back on hiring after the stock market crash, actually boosted hiring.

In the six months since the market crash, an average of 362,000 new jobs have been added each month, more than twice the size of the average monthly employment gains before the crash.

Goods

"After the crash, you would have thought that employers would have thrown on the caution light at least for a few months, but instead they stepped up their hiring and that boosted consumer confidence," said Michael Evans, head of a Washington forecasting firm and one of the analysts predicting a recession in the aftermath of the stock crash.

Analysts admit they are somewhat puzzled about why employers went on a hiring binge, especially since unsold goods were piling up at an alarming rate in the final three months of the year.

One factor that kept US hiring strong, they believe, was that much of the rise in inventories represented imported goods. Therefore, cutbacks in new orders hurt foreign producers, not American manufacturers.

In addition, US export sales remained strong, helped out by the weak dollar. US President Ronald Reagan's administration is counting on a robust export sector to provide almost half of the increased economic growth expected this year and so far that optimism appears warranted.

But analysts say none of these

things would have helped without the spectacular rise in employment, which pushed the jobless rate down to a nine-year low of 5.6 per cent in March.

With the strong gains in employment through March, many economists have been revising their growth forecasts for the year.

The Blue Chip economic indicators, a financial newsletter, said that two-thirds of the 51 top economists it surveys each month had boosted their overall growth forecasts for 1988.

The consensus estimate now puts GNP growth for all of 1988 at 2.7 per cent, substantially above the 1.9 per cent growth being forecast immediately following the market crash. The Reagan administration is calling for 2.9 per cent GNP growth this year.

World Business Summary

Inflation hits 42pc in first quarter: study

WARSAW, Poland, April 26, (AP): A government official has disclosed that prices in Poland climbed an estimated 42 per cent in the first three months of 1988, newspapers reported yesterday. The rate was about equal to previous official projections for the entire year, and it did not include energy price hikes of 100-200 per cent that took effect April 1 which were expected to have a ripple effect on the economy. Deputy Prime Minister Zdzislaw Sadowski disclosed the figure in a speech on Friday to a special parliament committee overseeing the government's programme of economic reform, according to a dispatch by the state-run news agency PAP published in newspapers on Saturday.

Sadowski also said that wages in the main areas of production had increased even more quickly during the same period, by 45 per cent. Poland's central annual plan had projected growth in prices of 40-44 per cent of all of 1988, with wages planned to rise by 36 per cent. Government officials have recently expressed concern about unadjusted growth in wages in Poland since a series of government price hikes took effect that were part of the economic reform package. Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski said last month that he would seek extraordinary economic powers for Sadowski unless the growth of wages was reined in. The decision of extraordinary powers would depend on the inflation results for the first quarter, he said at the time. Sadowski said the economic reform package aims to achieve price inflation exceeding wage growth by 6-7 per cent. The fact that wages are growing faster than prices is "not advantageous," he said, but added: "In the long run these growth rates will be reversed."

Mexico to aid Panama with oil shipments

MIAMI, April 26, (Reuters): Mexico has agreed to provide Panama with crude oil on easy payment terms in an effort to help it overcome US imposed sanctions, the Miami Herald reported on Saturday. The newspaper quoted unnamed Mexican and Panamanian officials as saying the Mexican offer came this week after a desperate plea by the cash-starved Panamanian government, which would have run out of oil in as little as three weeks. "Mexico's decision is an act of solidarity with the Panamanian people," the Herald quoted a telex, sent by the Mexican embassy in Panama to a high-level government official, as saying. "Mexico will provide this country with easy terms to obtain oil ... until difficulties of the present crises are overcome," said the message, obtained by the Herald. The Panamanian government is facing a severe financial crisis after Washington imposed economic sanctions in an effort to oust military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Mexico will offer its crude under terms of the San Jose agreement, a treaty that oil-rich Mexico and Venezuela signed to help countries in the region that must import their oil.

Mexico has agreed to exempt Panama from paying for its oil in advance and will allow it to make purchases at lower interest rates, the Herald reported. Mexico will also temporarily ignore the \$23 million that Panama owes for past oil shipments, the newspaper said.

Major US oil firms post sharply higher profits

NEW YORK, April 26, (Reuters): Exxon Corp, Mobil Corp and Occidental Petroleum reported sharply higher first-quarter profits on Monday, with product margins substantially above 1987's depressed levels. The three big oil companies said increased earnings were achieved even though there was an eight per cent drop in crude oil prices in the first quarter from the year-earlier period.

Chemicals along with refining and marketing — known as downstream operations — had impressive results. Petrochemicals were boosted by strong world-wide demand and lower prices for oil. Results for exploration and production — known as upstream operations — were unchanged or lower due to the fall in crude oil prices. Exxon, the largest US oil producer, said its first-quarter income was \$1.45 billion, up from \$1.07 billion a year earlier. Sales rose to \$22.01 billion from \$19.43 billion. Mobil, ranked second, said its net earnings rose to \$505 million from \$252 million. Sales rose to \$13.83 billion from \$11.68 billion.

Occidental Petroleum said its first-quarter operating net income totalled \$111 million, compared with \$73 million a year ago. Sales rose to \$4.48 billion from \$4.26 billion.

Brazil favours extension of coffee agreement

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Brazil, the largest coffee exporter, came out in favour of extending an existing producer-consumer pact to stabilise world prices on Monday. The number two producer, Colombia, is taking the same line ahead of preliminary discussions here in the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) on what to do when the agreement expires at the end of September, 1989. But the European Economic Community and the United States want the international coffee agreement completely renegotiated to reflect changed patterns in supply and demand. Brazil's delegate to the ICO talks, Lindenberg Sette, said: "Brazil hopes everyone will arrive at the conclusion that only extension is necessary and not renegotiation."

Discussion will take place today in the 16-member ICO executive board which reports to a full meeting of the producer-consumer organisation's council later this week.

Many of the ICO's 50 exporting and 24 importing members have not yet decided whether they want to extend or renegotiate the current pact. Brazil and Colombia feed a two-year extension which would allow more time for the difficult process of negotiating a new one.

Exporting members belonging to the Interamerican Coffee Organisation (Iaco) and the "other mids" group of producers met separately.

Central American delegates said the other mids group had not yet formulated a common position on the pact's future. Iaco sources said their group did not yet hold a unanimous view. Meanwhile in Geneva, a top United Nations official on Monday welcomed international moves to support trade in sugar, copper and tin, but regretted problems over rubber and cocoa.

Amoco to launch billion dollar North Sea gas-gathering system

LONDON, April 26, (Opec): Amoco UK exploration is planning to construct a \$1.70 billion gas-gathering system in central North Sea. The project is a joint venture to be undertaken with gas council exploration, the British Gas subsidiary, Amersco Hess and Texas eastern north sea. A final decision to proceed with the project is expected early next year after the approval of the Department of Energy. The system, expected to be operational in 1993, will serve the Everest and Lomond Fields with a 36-inch pipeline which will carry 15 billion cu.ft a day of sweet or low-sulphur gas. Amoco, which will operate the project, has a 30 per cent stake in the venture, while the gas exploration council maintains a 40 per cent interest.

A similar scheme further to the north by British Petroleum and Marathon has made little progress. It is understood that it has been held up by price discussions and the absence of an operational agreement between the two partners for the running of the pipeline. The network is intended to tap gas from the Brae and Miller fields.

Venezuela begins expansion of petrochemical industry

SAO PAULO, April 26, (Reuters): Brazil's biggest industrial exporter expects a reversal in its fortunes this year after losing money last year — but the catch could be a "slump" in its export business.

Booming "overseas" sales last year were not quite enough to offset losses on domestic car sales for Autolatina, a holding company formed last year for Volkswagen AG and Ford Motor Co. in Brazil.

The problem is estimated to cost businesses billions and billions of dollars every year,

prospects were not so bright.

"We are actually losing money on the exports," Sauer said.

The problem, in the company's view, is that the Brazilian cruzado is now 30 per cent overvalued against the US dollar," he said, adding that this had made pricing a problem in current negotiations with one of the company's main customers, Iraq.

Contract

Volkswagen's Brazilian subsidiary developed a big market for itself in Iraq and the 260,000 passats it has exported there, swapping them for oil, account for a third of Iraq's cars.

The new contract would be for another 100,000 passats.

Sauer said he had flown to Baghdad at least 25 times, sometimes during Iranian air raids, to negotiate with the Iraqis. And, he added: "There are a couple of other countries where we are ready to sign contracts and we are hesitating."

North American exports have been doing well — after shipping the first Volkswagen Fox models to the United States in December, 1986, sales now total nearly 94,000.

Autolatina's total exports last year jumped to 141,000 from 63,000 in 1986.

Meanwhile, at home, prospects are brightening.

Last year Autolatina's Brazilian business was hit by a record inflation rate of 366 per

cent. But, while production costs soared, state-controlled car prices did not keep pace.

And as people's living standards fell, domestic demand for cars slumped by nearly 40 per cent to 287,000 units from 478,000 in 1986.

Particles

Sauer said 716 million cubic metres (yards) of soot, sulfur dioxide and other wastes are released into the air every year. In 60 cities surveyed there was a density of 660 micrograms per cubic metre (yard) of floating pollutant particles, double state limits.

In 32 other cities, air pollutant particle density topped 860 micrograms, and several cities had more than 1,000 micrograms per cubic metre (yard).

The survey also found industries release 302 million tons of solid waste into the environment every year.

Norway extends curb on oil output growth to end of '88

OSLO, April 26, (Reuters): Norway, Western Europe's second biggest oil producer after Britain, said yesterday it would extend until the end of this year a voluntary 7.5 per cent cutback in its planned petroleum output growth.

The move, announced in an oil ministry statement, appeared to be an attempt to give the glutted world oil market a psychological boost ahead of Opec meetings in Vienna next week to discuss possible production cuts.

Norway is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), but last year it introduced its voluntary cutback measures to support the 13-nation organisation's efforts to boost oil prices.

In the light of the market situation, the government will extend measures to help stabilise the oil price at a reasonable level through the second half of 1988," the oil ministry said in a statement.

Norway first introduced the cutback at the beginning of 1987, but oil industry analysts noted that it has always been renewed previously at six month intervals.

Norway would have been expected to announce the move when the current six-month period runs out in June.

"What we have here is a clear

sign to the market before the talks next week that Norway is willing to help out — on its own terms," said one analyst, who declined to be identified.

Opec is to hold an unpreceded meeting with seven major oil producers outside the organisation next Tuesday in Vienna, to be followed by a meeting of all 13 Opec ministers on Thursday.

Oil prices have rallied in recent days on hopes that joint production cuts might be agreed at the talks, and the Norwegian statement welcomed what it called "signs that they (countries outside Opec) are willing to bring in regulatory measures."

"In this way, a broader basis for stabilisation of oil prices at a reasonable level can be created," it said.

Curbs

But it repeated the minority Labour government's view that Norway's production curbs should remain unilateral and that the country should keep an independent oil policy and not be bound by group decisions.

"It continues to be a condition for the Norwegian measures that other oil exporting countries (Opec) also implement realistic regulation measures to stabilise oil prices at a reasonably high level," the oil ministry statement said.

Existing Japanese systems use laser beams to encode data or CDs but can only record once.

Tandy has not released any technical information on how its CD player will work.

A spokesman from a Japanese audio company who declined to be identified said it was possible

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON
(Major Stocks)

Prices at the time of going to Press

NAME	LAST	CLOSE OPEN	NAME	CLOSE OPEN
ABBEY LIFE	262.0	250.0	BR VITA	431.0
ADLT LTD	112.0	100.0	BRAMMER	240.0
ALD LYONS	401.0	390.0	BRENT CHE	135.0
AMSTRAD	58.65	55.00	BRENT WCR	364.0
ARGYLL GP	205.0	195.0	BRIAN	141.4
ASDA GP	174.0	165.0	BRITANNIC	035.0
BAA PP	111.0	105.0	BRITANNIA	292.0
BTR	247.0	235.0	BRUNNER	106.0
BAT IND	417.0	405.0	BSC INTL	65.0
BARCLAYS	439.0	425.0	BULMER HP	174.0
BASS	833.0	815.0	C.A.B. ELECT	423.0
BEAZER	182.0	170.0	CALEDONIA	345.0
BEECHAMS	464.4	450.0	CALOR GRP	369.0
PEARSON	660.0	645.0	CAMP ELECT	238.0
BERISFORD	303.0	290.0	CAMP INST	40.0
BICC PLC	320.0	305.0	CANAL BOX	185.0
BLUES	159.0	150.0	CANON	181.0
BLUE ARW	120.0	115.0	CANNING W	181.0
BLUE CIRC	425.0	410.0	CANNON ST	275.0
BOC GP	379.0	365.0	CASE GRP	80.0
BOOTS CO	228.0	215.0	CENTL ALL	368.0
BPS IND	287.0	275.0	CENTL IND	500.0
BR COMM	285.0	270.0	CHALMERS	443.0
BR AIRWAY	158.0	145.0	CHARTER	26.0
BR AEROS	410.0	395.0	CHAS CHUR	124.0
BR GAS RG	176.0	165.0	CHLORIDE	52.0
B.P.	272.0	255.0	CHRISTIES	575.0
BR TELCO	246.0	230.0	CIA GROUP	44.0
BRITOL	512.0	495.0	CLYDE PET	139.0
BUNZL	139.0	125.0	COLAD	124.0
BURHAN OL	545.0	520.0	COLARO'S	198.0
BURTON	250.0	235.0	COMBE	203.0
CABLEGUR	323.0	305.0	COMET	205.0
CADBURY'S	329.0	310.0	COMIT	205.0
COATS VIT	238.0	225.0	CONDIT	215.0
COMM UNI	333.0	315.0	CONDIT	215.0
CONS GOLD	910.0	890.0	CONDIT	215.0
COOKSONS	538.0	520.0	CONDIT	215.0
COURTAULD	372.0	355.0	CONDIT	215.0
DALGETY	295.0	280.0	CONDIT	215.0
DEE CP	193.0	180.0	CONDIT	215.0
DIXONS	176.0	165.0	CONDIT	215.0
ENG CHINA	418.0	400.0	CONDIT	215.0
ENTER OIL	385.0	370.0	CONDIT	215.0
FCT BABCK	125.0	115.0	CONDIT	215.0
FERRANTI	79.0	70.0	CONDIT	215.0
GEN ACCID	915.0	890.0	CONDIT	215.0
GEN ELEC	154.0	145.0	CONDIT	215.0
GLAXO	952.0	930.0	CONDIT	215.0
GRANADA	336.0	320.0	CONDIT	215.0
GLOBE	137.0	125.0	CONDIT	215.0
GLYNNED	462.0	445.0	CONDIT	215.0
GRAND NET	480.0	460.0	CONDIT	215.0
GUARD RYL	920.0	890.0	CONDIT	215.0
GOI	298.0	280.0	CONDIT	215.0
GUINNESS	295.0	275.0	CONDIT	215.0
HIMMERSH A	574.0	550.0	CONDIT	215.0
HANSON	126.5	115.0	CONDIT	215.0
HUNKER SID	475.0	450.0	CONDIT	215.0
HILLSDOWN	284.0	265.0	CONDIT	215.0
ICI	993.0	970.0	CONDIT	215.0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORO	1429.7	1413.3	1411.6	1386.7
FT 500 SHR	1007.3	1007.3	1015.8	984.4
FT ALL SEC	916.25	916.25	920.88	896.75
FT GOV SEC	89.89	89.89	90.26	91.03
FT GOLD MN	207.1	207.1	207.5	237.3
FT MINES F	459.70	459.70	448.51	432.96
FT OIL	1823.9	1823.9	1811.5	1768.7
FT WLD DLR	129.50	128.66	128.61	128.44
FT WLD STG	102.39	100.93	100.44	101.83
FT WLD LOC	113.17	112.26	111.94	112.29
				99.08

London Stock Market Report

UK stocks at day's highs in late trading

London, April 26, Reuter—Share prices stood at the day's highs in late trading, buoyed by renewed speculative interest following news of a 2.1 billion stg offer for Rowntree by Nestle earlier today, dealers said.

Rowntree, which rejected the Nestle bid, settled to show a gain of 178p at 930. The stock touched a quoted high of 950 on turnover of more than 25 mn shares, and was the most actively traded share. Jacobs Suchard, which recently accumulated a 14.9 pct stake in Rowntree, said it may make a full bid for the company. At 1505 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 21 points up at the day's high of 1,798.6, on a turnover of 381.9 mn shares.

London Gold

LONDON, APRIL 26, REUTER - GOLD BULLION WAS FIXED THIS AFTERNOON AT 447.00 DLRs AN OUNCE, DOWN FROM MONDAY'S CLOSE OF 449.50/450.00 DLRs.				
BULLION DRIFTED DOWN DUE TO SOME LIGHT LIQUIDATION IN NEW YORK, DEALERS SAID. TRADERS HAD ANTICIPATED POOR U.S. REAL GNP FIGURES AND BOUGHT GOLD AHEAD THE PUBLISHED FIGURES.				
THE FIGURES, SHOWING AN ANNUAL RISE OF 2.3 PCT., WERE NOT AS BAD AS EXPECTED. THIS HAD MINIMAL IMPACT ON THE DOLLAR BUT GOLD REMAINED DEPRESSED AND LAST TRADED AT 446.70/447.20 DLRs.				
HOWEVER, TRADE IN GOLD BULLION CONTINUED TO BE LIGHT, AND LARGELY RESTRICTED TO PROFESSIONALS, DEALERS ADDED.				

London Money Market

LONDON, APRIL 26, REUTER - MONEY MARKET RATES WERE AS MUCH AS 1/8 POINT EASIER, BOUNCING BACK FROM YESTERDAY'S RISE WHICH DEALERS SAID HAD BEEN OVERDONE.				
ONE TRADER COMMENTED, "THE SHORT STERLING FUTURE WAS SOLD TOO MUCH YESTERDAY WHEN PEOPLE TOOK SOME MORE PROFITS AND THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN A BIT TODAY."				
SHORT STERLING STOOD TOWARDS THE TOP OF THIS MORNING'S TRADING RANGE, A NET SEVEN BASIS POINTS HIGHER AT 91.29 AT 0915 GMT. IN THE CASH MARKET, THE BENCHMARK THREE MONTHS INTERBANK RATE WAS 1/8 POINT LOWER AT 8-3/8 1/4 DESPITE A WEAKER POUND. STERLING LOST GROUND AGAINST THE MARK TO STAND AT AROUND 3.14.				

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DKR	FFR	OPG
1.8810/20	1.6710/15	5.6765/95	1300	
3.1410/45	10.6680/6795		29.36/52	NOON
3.135/149				FIX
10.666/684	339.3/340.0			FIX
2.5984/6012	82.68/78	24.34/37		1300
3.5240	112.155	33.025		FIX
				CLSE
				NOON
0.734464	2.31381	7.86104		
0.7145/55	233.72/234.04			
25/04/1988	OTHERS	26/04/1988		

SDR RATES

SEAGULL EN 13/3 13/2

SEALED AIR 0 13/2

SEARS ROE 35/6 35/7

SHAW PLOW 49/1 48/7

SMITH INT 10/0 9/6

SMITH BEC 54/1 54/1

SNAP ON TL 39/5 39/6

SOURCE CAR 37/2 37/0

SOUTHERN 22/2 22/7

SUNSH MIN 3/6 3/7

SUPER VAL 21/1 21/1

SUNSH MIN 3/6 3/7

SUSN GR 20/3 20/3

SUM BELL 35/5 35/5

TANDY CORP 46/2 46/3

TOK 0 75/0

TECO ENER 21/4 21/4

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

International Bond Highlights

New York — Moody's Investors Service Inc said it affirmed the ratings on 10.6 billion dollars of debt of General Electric Co's financial units, General Electric Financial Services Inc and General Electric Capital Corp.

Interbank Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	8-1/8 7-7/8	8-3/16 1/16	8-1/2 3/8
FFT	3.30/35	3.30/35	3.40/45
PAR	7-3/4 7/8	7-11/16 13/16	8-8-1/8
ZUR	1-7/8 2-1/8	1-7/8 2-1/8	2-2-1/4
BRY	5.45	6.00 1/8	6-1/16 3/16
ROM	9-7/8 10-3/8	10-1/8 10-5/8	10-1/2 11
AMS	3-3/4 3-7/8	3-15/16 4-0/0	3-15/16 4-1/16
TOK	3.3750 4375	3.8125 8750	3.8750 9375
ECU	5.875	6.06 6.18	6.25 6.37

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	51/2	57/8
3 months	59/16	515/16
6 months	59/16	515/16
1 year	59/16	515/16

BOMBAY

PR CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	66.50	66.50	67 NICO	490	490	480
ACC	162	162	157 GRASIN	91.25	91	91.25 NOCIL	472	452.50	462.50
ASIA PAINT	145	145	142.50 GSFC	99	92	99 ORKAY	24.25	24.50	23
BAJAJ AUTO	205	207.50	203.75 HIND LEVER	66.50	68.50	68 PEICO	30	30	31
BAR. RAYON	215	212.50	205 HINDALCO	74.50	76	74 PFIZER	55	56	55
BON. DYEING	125.50	128.50	125 HINDCOCA	72	71.50	73 PRE.AUTO	28.50	28.75	27.50
B.R. BOND	88	88	89 HINDMOTOR	17	17.25	17 RAYMOND	44	43.50	44
BSE INDEX	442.54	454.85	IND. ORG	20	20.20	20.50 RELIANCE	113	113.50	107
CENTURYSPI	815	810	805 INDRAYON	58	58.50	57 SIEMENS	59	60	61
COLGATE	169.50	170	168.75 INDROL	135	137.50	138.75 SPIC	32.75	33	32.75
DEEPAKERT	28.50	27	28.50 ITC	33.50	33.50	33 STOMILLS	220	217.50	215
EL. HOTEL	46	45	46 JKSYNTH	53.75	55	52.50 TATA PWR	200	207.50	207.50
ESKAYE	162.50	155	162.50 L. AND T	84.50	87.50	84 TATACHEM	62.50	62.50	62.50
ESSAR	17.50	17.25	17.50 MARINDRA	54	54	54 TELCO	465	467.50	465
GAR. POLY	74.50	74.75	74.50 MASTERSH	10.12	10.06	10.31 TISCO	701.25	702.50	691.25
GE. SHIP	28.50	28	28.50 MATHER PL	71	71	70 VOLTAS	270	270	275

FRANKFURT

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	1310	1320
AEG	204.7	205.0	MITSUB EL	750
ALLIANZ VR	1310.0	1325.0	MITSUB EST	2440
BAEDERICK	180.5	180.5	MITSUB IVY	725
BAASF	243.5	245.5	MITSUI CO	922
BAIER HYP	339.5	339.0	MITSUKOSHI	1770
BAIER VER	339.0	340.0	MITSUMI EL	1280
BBC	324.0	325.0	MITSUMI SE	2060
BHF	380.0	382.0	MITSUMI SEC	2070
BMW	508.5	510.0	MITSUYA	1410
CHEMIE-VER	0	120.0	MITSUYA	1430
COMMERZBK	227.5	227.5	MITSUYA	1430
CONTI GUMI	247.3	246.5	MITSUYA	1430
DAINER BEN	615.1	630.0	MITSUYA	1430
DEUTSC BNK	411.5	411.0	MITSUYA	1430
DLW	348.0	346.0	MITSUYA	1430
DRESDNER B	243.2	243.0	MITSUYA	1430
DT BABCOCK	160.0	160.5	MITSUYA	1430
FAZ INDEX	446.68	451.77	MITSUYA	1430
GOLDSCHEID	254.2	255.2	MITSUYA	1430
GUTEHOFF	0	0	MITSUYA	1430
HARPER	405.0	405.0	MITSUYA	1430
HOECHST AG	252.5	254.5	MITSUYA	1430
HOESCH	120.4	121.3	MITSUYA	1430
NORTEN	189.0	192.0	MITSUYA	1430
NUSSEL HLD	468.0	470.0	MITSUYA	1430
KALI SALZ	136.0	137.0	MITSUYA	1430
KARSTADT	462.0	469.0	MITSUYA	1430
KAUFHOF	410.5	410.0	MITSUYA	1430
KLOECK N	102.5	102.8	MITSUYA	1430
KLOCHEK W	91.00	93.50	MITSUYA	1430
LINDE	615.0	625.5	MITSUYA	1430
LUFTHANSA	145.0	146.0	MITSUYA	1430
MAN	177.0	173.0	MITSUYA	1430
MANNESMAN	133.9	133.1	MITSUYA	1430
MERCEDES	498.5	510.5	MITSUYA	1430
METALLGES	266.0	260.1	MITSUYA	1430
MINDORF PF	505.7	508.8	MITSUYA	1430
MORSK HYD	54.80	54.00	MITSUYA	1430
PHILIP KOM	601.5	606.0	MITSUYA	1430
PORSCHE	525.5	530.0	MITSUYA	1430
PREUSSAG	164.0	166.3	MITSUYA	1430
PWA	209.5	203.0	MITSUYA	1430
RHEIN	202.5	205.5	MITSUYA	1430
RHEIN P	193.0	194.0	MITSUYA	1430
RHEINMETAL	278.5	280.0	MITSUYA	1430
REALAMANDER	252.0	257.0	MITSUYA	1430
SCHERING	446.0	449.0	MITSUYA	1430
SEL	294.8	296.0	MITSUYA	1430
SIEMENS	343.4	345.1	MITSUYA	1430
TRYSSEN	129.5	130.0	MITSUYA	1430
VARTA	264.0	265.0	MITSUYA	1430
WEBA	251.0	250.8	MITSUYA	1430
VEN	164.5	166.3	MITSUYA	1430
VOLKSWAGEN	238.3	239.2	MITSUYA	1430

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	GULF IND.	119	119	M'SHITA	510	510
H TUNNEL	15.40	15.60	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
HEUNG K	7.55	7.65	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
HINA GAS	16.30	16.60	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
HINA L-P	18.30	18.60	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
HINA MOT	18.50	18.60	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
OSNO PROP	0	4.30	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
VERGO IND	3.38	3.39	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
AR EAST C	.77	.78	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
EN ORIENT C	0	4.00	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
C DEVELOP	9.15	9.20	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
S INDEX	585.97	623.75	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
ING LUNG	5.30	5.40	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
ING SENG	26.50	26.80	M'SHITA	510	510	510	510
W PAR BR	0</						

Gold prices drop

Dollar edges lower and shares quiet

LONDON, April 26, (Reuter): The dollar slipped and shares traded quietly this morning, as dealers said they were awaiting key US growth statistics which could signal whether or not inflation was on the rise.

Gold prices also fell.

The market expected later today's release of first quarter US GNP growth of between 2 per cent and 2.5 per cent, dealers said.

"If the figure is around 2.8 or 3 per cent, the market is going to buy dollar at first because one will expect a tightening by the Fed," said a dealer at a US bank in Frankfurt, West Germany, referring to the US Federal Reserve.

Unsustainable

"But in the longer term, it would show that the inclination for imports is still strong," which would cloud the prospects of a rapid reduction in the US trade deficit.

A trader in Rome said the market was keeping an eye on the British pound following Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel

Lawson's remarks on Sunday that any further rise in sterling was "unsustainable."

In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar fell 0.43 yen to a closing 124.57. Later, in London, it was quoted at 124.40 yen.

Other dollar rates at midmorning, compared with late yesterday:

- 1.6718 West German marks, down from 1.6765
- 1.3825 Swiss francs, down from 1.3860

- 5.6718 French francs, down from 5.6915
- 1.8765 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8790

- 1.243.50 Italian lire, down from 1.245.00
- 1.2305 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2309.

In London, one British pound cost \$1.8793, more expensive for buyers than 1.8730 yesterday.

But as traders awaited the 1230 GMT report on US Gross National Product (GNP), the price of gold — often favoured by investors worried that inflation will erode the value of cash

and stocks — eased \$1.50 an ounce from yesterday's close to be fixed at \$448.25.

At midmorning, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$448.25.

Price

In Zurich, the bid price was \$448.30, down from \$449.50 late yesterday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell \$1.19 to close at a bid \$449.94.

Silver was quoted in London today at a bid price of \$6.37 a troy ounce, down from Monday's 6.42.

London's FTSE index of 100 Blue Chip shares opened 8.4 points higher, at 1,786, and by mid-morning had put on another two points.

Expanding

In Tokyo, home of the world's biggest stock market, the 225-share Nikkei Average edged 33.32 points higher to a record 27,246.77, but dealers said trading was lacklustre.

"We have been on an uptrend for three days, and some investors are taking a bit of a break," said Hirofumi Wada, general manager of Okasan Securities.

People are looking towards the US first quarter GNP data."

But dealers say those figures could be difficult to interpret. They will not only be looking at how quickly the US economy is growing, but at where and how it is expanding.

"If it's all consumer-driven, it's bad. It's inflationary," said Kathy Camilli, an economist at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc, in New York. "To the extent that we don't get an improvement in net exports, it would be construed negatively," she added.

Recent rises in oil prices had also heightened investors' concerns about inflation, but oil prices were steady as Opec's price committee met in Vienna ahead this evening talks with seven non-Opec producers to cut output and boost prices.

Paris shares firmed, with the Bourse indicator up 0.47 per cent, as investors decided yesterday's sharp drops meant there were now bargains to be had.

Sydney's All-Ordinaries index rose 4.3 points higher at 1,441.1. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 37.78 points to 2,585.97.

It's dead quiet. The prices can only go down when there's so little interest," one Frankfurt dealer said. "There's no incentive for investors to buy at the moment," he added.

Sydney's All-Ordinaries index rose 4.3 points higher at 1,441.1. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 37.78 points to 2,585.97.

Shares had dropped after Sunday's first round vote in the presidential election gave Socialist incumbent Francois Mitterrand a bigger-than-expected lead over his main conservative rival, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Victory

"Operators have already discounted Mitterrand's victory anyway, and people want to buy because the market is undervalued," a Paris dealer said.

The All Share Swiss index rose 1.1 points to 813, Amsterdam's CBS all share index up 0.1 at 84.2, but Frankfurt shares eased, with the Boersen Zeitung index down 2.05 points to 291.90.

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AN artist's impression of the European Fighter Aircraft which Britain is to go ahead and build, is shown in the picture. The 37 billion project was announced in the British House of Commons on Monday. The decision to proceed with the new aeroplane will be formally ratified when defence ministers from Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain meet next month. (Reuter wirephoto)



STRIKING municipal-transport workers are seen in a tram depot in the north-central Polish city of Bydgoszcz during the protest action which idled buses and trams for 12 hours and led to a compromise settlement. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEST BERLIN Senator of Justice, Rupert Scholz, is pictured in front of the West Berlin town hall Schoneberg on Monday. Scholz has been proposed as possible successor to West German Defence Minister Manfred Worner. (Reuter wirephoto)



BRITISH firemen contain a blaze in a large NATO military store Monday night. Police issued a pollution warning after a pall of smoke containing asbestos spread across the countryside. (Reuter wirephoto)



OFFICIALS from the city of Soyapango, El Salvador, identify the bodies of Nicolasa Rivera Palacios, 77, and Juan Rivera Villanueva, 45, who were killed on Sunday by members of the Salvadoran Army. (Reuter wirephoto)



BISHOP Chals Abdel Malik (left) head of the Episcopal, or Anglican, church in Egypt, signs official documents during consecration of All Saints Cathedral in Cairo on Monday. With him is Bishop Samir Kaffy of Jerusalem, a sister diocese. The new cathedral, on the river Nile island of Zamalek, replaces one demolished 12 years ago to make way for a road bridge. (Reuter wirephoto)



ONTARIO Provincial Police try to round up a loose steer with one of their cars after a cattle truck turned over on one of the city's main highways on Sunday. Police worked for nearly two hours to catch 20 to 30 of the animals. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Vice-President George Bush visits a student at the Bidwell Training Centre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Monday. The training centre provides quality training for economically dislocated workers. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH Prime Minister Jacques Chirac (centre) presides over a post-election meeting with the ministers at the Hotel Matignon on Monday. The French government expressed its complete support to Jacques Chirac for the second round of France's presidential elections. From left to right: Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Justice Minister Alain Chalandon, Jacques Chirac, Culture Minister Francois Leotard and Education Minister Rene Monory. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRISONER wrapped in a Brazilian flag stands on the roof of a prison near the central Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte yesterday where inmates who are trying to escape are holding 28 persons. (Reuter wirephoto)



CREWMEMBER from the USS Bonefish is lifted from the submarine by a Navy helicopter as other members of the crew wait to be picked up on Sunday. The Bonefish, one of four diesel-powered subs left in the US Navy, caught fire about 160 miles east of Cape Canaveral. Eighteen sailors were injured. (Reuter wirephoto)



RESCUE workers try to free trapped passengers from a derailed train after a crash Monday morning which killed at least twelve and injured more than forty. The crash happened near the town of Soroe, on the outskirts of the Danish capital. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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HAWALLI, near Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital, 4th Ring Road. Furnished spacious room with separate bath and tele facilities for 2 bachelors to share with a Keralite family. Tele. 2439264 ext. 203. 8.30 am - 2 pm. (AT5-42030-2)

KUWAIT City, near the Meridien Hotel, sharing accommodation in a big room in a flat for an Indian bachelor. Tele. Suresh, 2415470. 1.30 - 7 pm. (AT5-42029-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7 behind Irani shop. One big room with water, electricity and kitchen for a family/bachelors. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243. (AT5-42031-3)

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Terkat Real Estate Est. Tel: 3913189, 3819884. From 7 to 11.30 pm during Ramadan.

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Situations vacant

Special education teachers and aides wanted for fall 1988. Send CV to P.O. Box 44155, Hawalli 32056 or call 533-6541, 8-10 am Sat/Mon or 5628029 evenings.

FARWANIYA preferably in east/west of Airport Road. Quiet boy seeks independent room, meals with a Goan. Tele. Agnelo, 4718960/944, 8.30 am - 2 pm. (AT3-41998-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

CHEVROLET — Eurosport — 1985, AC, automatic, white. Driven by a lady owner. In very good condition. KD1950, cash. Tele. Yusuf, 2436624, 6-8pm. (AT4-42014-2)

RANGEROVER 1982 model, lady driven, in good condition. KD1200. Tele. 3946162, 9 am - 12.30 pm, 8-10 pm. (AT5-42038-3)

PONTIAC Bonneville Brougham. 5 litre, white with blue velour. KD1950. Tele. 5381431. (AT3-41991-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool. Al Azraq Real Estate Tel. 2452199, 2452198

WANTED

Master cutter, dress-maker and beaders with experience.

Tel. 3921310

MITSUBISHI Pajero, 1983 with 4 deluxe wheels and tyres plus 5 spare wheels and tyres. KD1050. Tele. 3902105. (AT4-42027-3)

NISSAN Pulsar 1983, 60,000 kms, manual, regularly maintained in excellent condition. KD500. Tele. Chris, 2622953, evenings. (AT4-42010-3)

CHEVROLET Impala 1980, registered in 1981, inspection valid upto April 1989, well-maintained dark blue/light blue, fully automatic, in good condition. KD750. Tele. M/S Sheikh, 2401197, 2410227, 9 am - 12 noon. (AT3-41990-3)

MITSUBISHI Celeste 1980, 1978, AC, manual, yellow, registered up to May 1989, driven by a lady. KD300. Tele. 2624603. (AT4-42015-2)

Furniture

SOFA sets, coffee tables. Moulinex - chopper-grater etc. going cheap. If interested please tele. 2460967, 9 am - 12.30 pm, 8-10 pm. (AT5-42038-2)

DOUBLE bed for sale. Tele. 5336166, after 10 am. (AT3-42001-3)

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Miscellaneous

FREEZER, KD25, automatic washing machine KD25, serial, rotator, amp, KD20. Chrysler New Yorker 1983 model, automatic cruise control. KD350. Tele. Ken, 2623957, evenings. (AT4-42027-3)

20" Sony TV and JVC VCR without remote controls. Two years old, little used. KD120 for both the items. Anfeen, 4886000 ext 3844, 9am - 1pm. (AT3-42004-3)

20" Sony TV and JVC VCR without remote controls. Two years old, little used. KD120 for both the items. Anfeen, 4886000 ext 3844, 9am - 1pm. (AT4-42008-3)

VIDEO camera "Funai" with all appendencies; Sony video; TV Telefunken 15 inches; rowing exercise machine; microwave oven. Tele. 2620842, afternoon. (AT4-42007-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant estate 1983, AC, manual, white, registered and insured upto February 89, KD500: one: snooker/pool table 6ft x 3ft with accessories. KD110. Tele. 3713917. (AT3-41993-3)

WINDSURFER, KD40, television stereo system and also various household goods for sale. Tele. 480760, evenings. (AT5-42037-3)

YAMAHA guitar with case in brand new condition. For details please tele. 5734098, after 3 pm. (AT5-42028-3)

LOADING container to Delhi in first week of May. Space of about 56 cbm available. Anyone interested please Tele. Paul, 2417758/32. (AT3-41995-3)

CAR/computer — 1981 Mazda, 60,000 km, excellent condition. FREEZER, KD25, automatic washing machine KD25, serial, rotator, amp, KD20. Chrysler New Yorker 1983 model, automatic cruise control. KD350. Tele. Ken, 2623957, evenings. (AT4-42027-3)

SINGLE & double beds; side tables; cupboards; sofa set; chairs; 16ft speed boat; Canon AM1 copying machine; surfboards. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 3902105. (AT4-42026-3)

Computers

AMSTRAD* IBM compatible 1512, 2 disc drives, high resolution colour monitor, in new condition. Tele. 3989111 ext. 6338 off. 7 am - 1 pm, 3986444 Res, after 4 pm. (AT3-41994-3)

BBC computer model 'B' disc drive with 16 different software items, books etc. KD250 one. Tele. Jacob, 2517968 Ext. 25, 9am - 1 pm. (AT4-42024-3)

LOADING container to Delhi in first week of May. Space of about 56 cbm available. Anyone interested please Tele. Paul, 2417758/32. (AT3-41995-3)

YAMAHA guitar with case in brand new condition. For details please tele. 5734098, after 3 pm. (AT5-42028-3)

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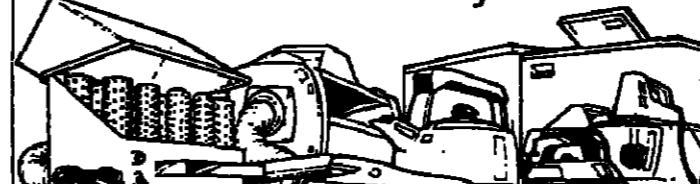
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SPORTS

Massive security for 1988 Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea, April 26, (AP): Security plans for the 1988 Summer Olympics sound more like preparations for a war than the world's greatest sports event.

The 24th Olympic Games will be protected by massive security to guard against possible threats from North Korea and international terrorists. The divided Korean peninsula is one of the world's most volatile areas with south and North Korea locked in a struggle for supremacy that often turns violent.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, elite commandos, security agents and police will guard the Olympics with an arsenal ranging from aircraft carriers to sniffer dogs. The United States will beef up its forces in the area to help protect the Games.

The Olympics have always been a target for terrorists, said a senior security official. "Now, we also have the threat from the North."

Communist North Korea has demanded to co-host the Olympics and said it will boycott the Games if the demand is not met. South Korea and the United States have accused the North of increasing tension to try to disrupt the Games.

"We can understand your need for tension. It is part of your effort to undermine the Olympics," US Navy Rear Admiral William Pendley told North Korean delegates at an April 1 meeting.

Orders

A self-confessed North Korean agent held by the South said she planted a bomb on a Korean Air (KAL) plane that was destroyed on Nov 29 with the deaths of all 115 people aboard. Kim Hyun-Hui said she acted on orders of top North Korean leaders trying to wreck the Games.

The North, which denied any involvement in the KAL bombing, has been implicated in many attacks, including a bombing at Seoul's Kimpo airport on the eve of the 1986 Asian Games that killed five people.

North Korea's call for a Communist boycott of the Games to back its co-hosting demand died after the Soviet Union and China said they would participate. South Korea still hopes that the North will take part, and will keep the door open until the last moment.

A record 161 nations are to take part in the Games from Sept 7 to Oct 2. It will be the first time 12 years that the United States and the Soviet Union will both compete in the Summer Games.

South Korean and Olympic officials are confident they can insure the safety of the Games by making it the most heavily guarded sports event in history.

Some 120,000 military and police personnel will guard the actual Games. They will be equipped with 117,000 pieces of equipment ranging from sophisticated devices to detect liquid explosives and gas guns that can fire through concrete walls.

Elite commandos, their faces hidden by black hoods, have spent months practicing in the Olympic venues to deal with any possible threats. The commandos specialize in scaling down ropes head first with guns drawn in lightning assaults.

Detectors

Special combat police have been standing guard at the stadiums around the clock since last year. Spectators entering the stadiums will be searched. Explosive detectors are positioned at all gates.

The athlete's village, which will host some 13,700 athletes and coaches, is ringed by two fences with electronic sensors that detect intruders and alert security headquarters. Guards will patrol the fences around the lock while troops keep watch on guard posts.

Officials admit excessive security could be a problem and that the athletes' village will resemble a fortress. They say there is no alternative.

"The security of the athletes' village is very important. It will be the safest area," said Hwang Yu-Woong, director general of security of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee.

Civilian volunteers, many of whom speaking foreign languages, are being recruited to help smooth security checks and assure visitors. "We will try to give people smile," Hwang said.

An even bigger security operation will be mounted across the nation by the 650,000-strong South Korean armed forces. Land and air patrols will be stepped up and Army units on the North Korean border will go on alert.

The United States is to reinforce its 40,000 troops in the South and US military forces in the region will be on alert. Two powerful US Navy aircraft carrier groups are expected to patrol offshore.

FLACH AND SEGUSO TAKE DOUBLES TITLE**McEnroe outplays Edberg**

INGLEWOOD, California, April 26, (AP): John McEnroe, the former top-ranked pro currently on the comeback trail, defeated No. 3-ranked Stefan Edberg 6-3, 6-4 last night in the final of the Michelin Challenge round robin series.

In an earlier doubles match, top-ranked Ken Flach and Robert Seguso defeated John Lloyd and Christo van Rensburg 6-2, 6-2. The match took a little under an hour.

McEnroe's speed and court coverage worked to his advantage as he won the \$100,000 first prize for the 91-minute match played before 10,019 at the forum.

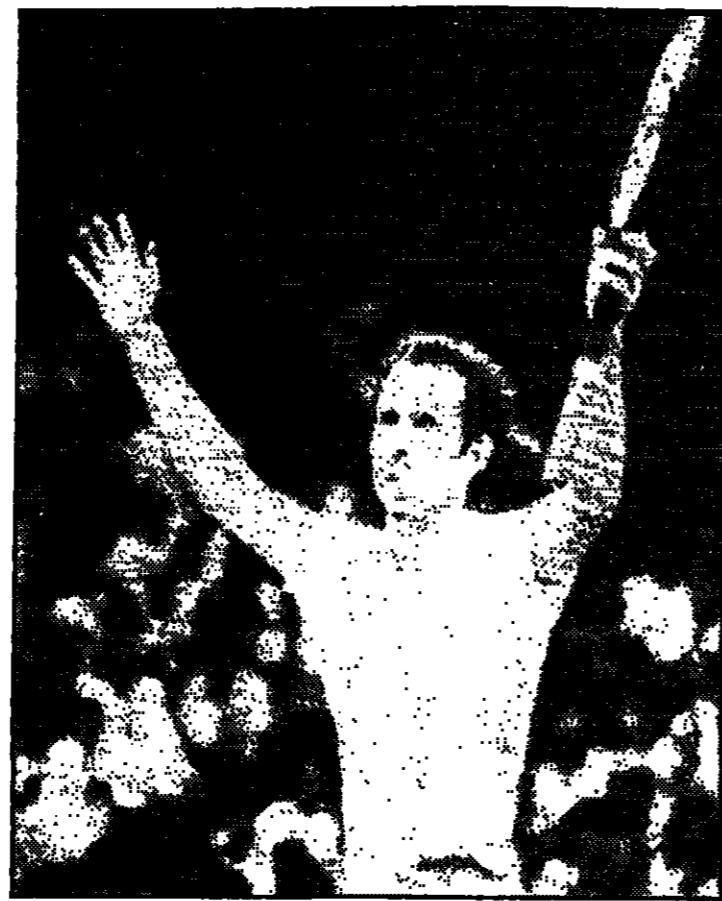
"It's great to be back," said McEnroe, ranked No. 14 in the world. "I feel I'm hitting the ball very well. I felt he didn't serve particularly well tonight and my service return was the difference. If you look back over the match, I was consistent."

McEnroe took the first set with the lone service break in the second game.

Edberg jumped to a 3-1 lead in the second set by breaking McEnroe in the fourth game. McEnroe, who won his first title of the year in Tokyo two weeks ago, rallied back.

He used two service breaks while taking five of the next six games for the victory.

Edberg, of Västervik, Sweden,



McEnroe raises his arms in victory. (Reuter wirephoto)

tough time but I'm not complaining. I've always had a tough time playing him."

McEnroe, 29, has won eight of nine matches against Edberg. He also defeated Edberg 6-2, 6-2 at the Suntory Japan Open earlier this month.

"He didn't return well," McEnroe, of Malibu, California, said of his opponent. "I think both of us had a low percentage on our first serves. I haven't gotten into the groove yet. I think mentally I was better."

McEnroe's reputation as the "bad boy" of tennis didn't surface yesterday although he did dispute some line calls.

"I felt they made a mistake on some calls, but I didn't blow up," he said. "I don't want to make them afraid. I just hope they concentrate better next time and bear down more."

He added that his attitude has improved. "Before," he said. "If I was not No. 1, I was a failure. But it's like climbing a mountain and I think it's worth a shot."

McEnroe said he still wants to be the best player in the world.

"I'm going to play the French Open and Wimbledon and weigh in between. The French Open is the ultimate one because I've won everything else."

"I'm not going to close the door on the Olympics. I'm going to wait and see what happens."

Berger sails past Muller in opener

ISLE OF PALMS, South Carolina, April 26, (AP): Fourth-seeded Jay Berger of the United States overpowered unseeded Gary Muller of South Africa 6-1, 6-1 yesterday in the first round of the US Men's Clay Court Championships.

Two seeded players lost in early first-round action at the Wild Dunes Racquet club.

Milan Strejber of Czechoslovakia beat sixth-seeded Luiz Mattar of Brazil 6-2, 6-2 on a breezy, cool afternoon, while American Marty Davis downed No. 8 seed Kelly Everden of New Zealand 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Berger dominated Muller despite having his problems with his first serve in the second set.

Muller, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament last year, made numerous unforced errors, which left him talking to himself and slamming the ball into the net after missing an easy shot.

After one shot by Berger in the second set, Muller shouted, "Nice play. No brains."

Serve

Berger, ranked 55th in the world, broke Muller, ranked 85th, on the first game to set the tone. Muller scored just one point in each of the next three games before finally holding serve to cut the lead to 4-1.

But Berger held serve on a forehand cross-court and broke Muller to win the set when the South African hit a backhand into the net.

Berger won the first four games in the second set and then broke Muller at 15-40 to go up 5-1. Berger won the match when Muller hit a forehand long.

The second set featured several long rallies and first-service problems for Berger, who at one point missed his first two first serves.

Earlier Strejber, scored an easy win over Mattar, No. 40 in the world. "I played pretty well. I lost to Mattar last year ... on clay," Strejber said. "I expected him to attack the net more than he did."

**Graf to take part in Player's Challenge**

MONTREAL, April 26, (AP): Steffi Graf of West Germany, currently the world's top-ranked women's tennis player, announced yesterday that she will make her first-ever appearance here when she competes in the Player's Challenge at Jarry Park, Aug 13-21.

Graf, 18, whose \$321,712 earnings on this year's tour has boosted her career winnings to \$2,231,024 said she regarded the Montreal event as more than a tuneup for the United States Open.

"I'm preparing to win," she said in a telephone interview from her home in Brühl, West Germany. "I'll even be up there a week early to practise and get adjusted to the court."

Although their presence has

not yet been confirmed, it is expected that No. 2-ranked Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini, who has dealt Graf her only two losses in 28 matches this year, will be among the entrants for the Player's Challenge.

The most recent loss by Graf

against Sabatini came in the semifinal of the Women's International Tennis Association tournament at Amelia Island, Florida, on April 16. During the tournament, Graf injured her left wrist while fishing in her leisure time. Graf experienced some swelling around the soft tissue of the wrist.

"I'm recovering quite well," she said. "I'm happy that it was an injury to the left hand because at least that way I can still practice."

Officials also revealed that

Wimbledon was paying a high price for its perseverance with grass as a playing surface.

Buzz Hadingham, chairman of the championships committee, said it contributed some £300,000 pounds (currently \$564,000) to the grasscourt tournaments that precede Wimbledon.

"Coming off the clay court championships in Italy and France, the players have only a short time to practice on grass, so that money goes towards the run-up tournaments," Hadingham said.

Wimbledon prize money soars with exchange rate

WIMBLEDON, England, April 26, (AP): The weakness of the dollar on the money markets will mean a bumper pay-out for dollar-earning prize winners at this summer's Wimbledon tennis championships.

Officials said yesterday that although prize money in pounds sterling has risen by a modest 5.8 per cent, the dollar equivalent is up by 22.9 per cent, because of a more favourable exchange rate last year. By the time the finals are played, the total prize money could be close to the \$5 million mark.

The world's only Grand Slam grasscourt tournament, Wimbledon is being staged in the two weeks beginning June 20 and Chris Gorringe, chief executive of the All England Club that hosts the event, explained that the difference probably will be even greater by the time the winners come to pick up their cheques on July 3.

Because of the complicated formula laid down in the rules of international tennis, the dollar equivalent in prize money was calculated on the basis of \$1.65 to the pound, compared with the current rate of 1.88.

Officials said the total in prize money would be £2,616,126 (£4,310,077 based on 1.65, but \$4,918,317 at current rates). That compares with last year's £2,470,020 (\$3,507,428 at 1987 rates).

The winner of the men's singles has risen by £155,000 last year (then \$220,000) to £165,000 (\$272,250 based on 1.65).

The women's singles champion will get £148,500 (\$245,025) compared with last year's £139,500 (then \$198,000).

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James ousts Johnson for quarterfinals

SHEFFIELD, England, April 26, (Reuter): Outsider Steve James shrugged off a six-frame winning streak by former champion Joe Johnson to reach the quarterfinals of the World Professional Snooker Championship yesterday.

James, seeded 13th, went down 6-4, 7-6 to Sweden's Ulf Stenlund in the first round.

Twelfth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb

comfortably defeated Cassio Motta of Brazil 6-2, 6-4 in first round play, but won it only 13-9 after his compatriot's impressive fightback.

Alexander Mironz lost 6-1, 6-1 to American Jim Pugh. Paul Voitischek went out 6-1, 6-3 against Alberto Tous of Spain and France's Thierry Champion beat Markus Rackl 6-3, 6-2. Michael Westphal won an 11th-round match 6-4, 6-3 against Tomas Smid 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Twelfth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb

comfortably defeated Cassio Motta of Brazil 6-2, 6-4 in first round play, but won it only 13-9 after his compatriot's impressive fightback.

Johnson, champion in 1986 and beaten finalist against Steve Davis last year, who had won the last two frames the previous night, added the first four yesterday to move within two of the rookie professional.

A nervous James, playing in his first world championship, made several errors in the 21st frame but Johnson failed to capitalise on them and saw his winning streak end.

James was more composed in the next as he made a break of 45 to take command and then finished in style with a 61 clearance to win the frame 130-0 and earn a place against either Canada's Cliff Thorburn or John Parrott of England.

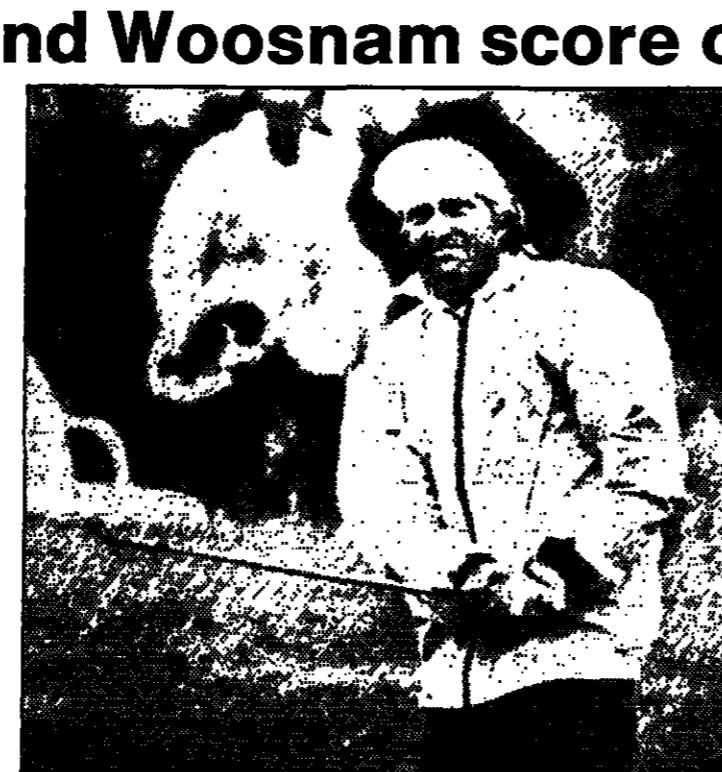
Afterwards James, who is ranked 66th in the world and who started the tournament sorting out his game, said: "I have never known pressure like that in my life. It got to me but I managed to play through it."

Neal Foulds of England joined James in the last eight when he cruised to a 13-1 win over Doug Mountjoy of Wales in another second-round encounter. Foulds now faces 1979 champion Terry Griffiths of Wales, a 13-9 winner against England's Willie Thorne.

Oilers triumph

NEW YORK, April 26, (AP): The Edmonton Oilers completed a stunning, four-game sweep of the Calgary Flames with a 6-4 victory last night in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

In beating the Smythe Division and overall regular-season champions in four straight, the Oilers thus became the first team in the playoffs to advance to the conference finals.

Norman and Woosnam score one-shot win in Desert Scramble

Norman (left) and Woosnam: made eight birdies over final 11 holes

die won. If nobody birdied, the closest tee shot to the pin would win.

Norman used an 8-iron to get 18 feet from the pin while Nicklaus was 20 feet away and both

mark but missed his putt for birdie. Norman calmly made his for the win before a gallery of 3,000 — many of whom paid \$500 to watch the inaugural match.

"I'm sure that's what people wanted to see — a great finish," Norman said. "We were far behind after 13, but I wasn't thinking of quitting. I told Ian

SPORTS**Massive security for 1988 Olympics**

SEOUL, South Korea, April 26, (AP): Security plans for the 1988 Summer Olympics sound more like preparations for a war than the world's greatest sports event.

The 24th Olympic Games will be protected by massive security to guard against possible threats from North Korea and international terrorists. The divided Korean peninsula is one of the world's most volatile areas with south and North Korea locked in a struggle for supremacy that often turns violent.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, elite commandos, security agents and police will guard the Olympics with an arsenal ranging from aircraft carriers to sniffer dogs. The United States will beef up its forces in the area to help protect the Games.

SPORTS

FOUR-DAY MATCH PRODUCES 1,570 RUNS

Essex score easy win over Kent

LONDON, April 26, (AP): Essex romped to a record-breaking victory over Kent in the English County Cricket Championship yesterday as one of the first four-day games in the League's history produced an unprecedented runs aggregate.

The two south-eastern counties amassed 1,570 runs as Essex won by eight wickets at Chelmsford. The previous best aggregate of 1,475 was between Northamptonshire and Surrey in 1920, when matches were restricted to three days.

During the match, Kent scored 400 for seven declared and 384. Essex, inspired by a mammoth 275 by England opener Graham Gooch, piled up 616 in its first innings and was left with a modest 170 to win.

Unbeaten

Gooch scored 73 in the second innings and Australian star Allan Border hit an unbeaten 55 to achieve the record-breaking victory.

Four-day cricket is being tried for the first time in the championship's 124-year history and the result has been a glut of runs in the opening matches.

pacemen Norman Cowans and Angus Fraser took seven wickets between them yesterday to spearhead Middlesex to a crushing 241-run victory over English county cricket champions Nottinghamshire at Lord's.

Former England opening bowler Cowans took three for 38 while Fraser captured four for 42.

Hurst helps Red Sox rout Brewers

MILWAUKEE, April 26, (AP): Bruce Hurst was one out away from shutout and had to settle for a complete game.

"I'll take 30 just like that one," Hurst said last night after throwing a six-hitter with no walks and eight strikeouts to give the Boston Red Sox their sixth straight victory, 5-1 over the Milwaukee Brewers.

"My thought was to get the win, but the shutout would be nice," Hurst, 3-0, said.

Boston manager John McNamara said his team is just playing good, solid baseball.

Rockie Brady Anderson got his first game-winning RBI when his sacrifice fly in the third inning broke the scoreless tie.

"It's just nice to contribute as a rookie," Anderson said.

A contribution from everyone is just what McNamara wants.

"We're getting very good pitching and we're executing with runners in scoring position," McNamara said.

Brewers manager Tom Treblehorn watched his team scratch one solitary run off Boston pitching in two games, while dropping their fifth straight to the Red Sox.

"Hurst was overpowering. Maybe the radar gun doesn't say he's overpowering, but he located his pitches well," Treblehorn said.

The Red Sox chased Milwaukee starter Bill Wegman, 1-3, with one out in the seventh when Ellis Burks' RBI-single drove in Anderson, who had doubled, and gave them a 3-0 lead.

India banned for one year

NEW DELHI, April 26, (Kuna): The International Tennis Federation has imposed a one year ban on India for their refusal to play Israel in this year's relegations play off.

The ITF, according to All India Tennis Association sources, has been quite lenient with India. It is understood that ITF has decided against imposing a \$10,000 fine on India for not playing against Israel in Tel Aviv.

India decided not to play against Israel in the wake of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip areas.

British soccer

LONDON, April 26, (Reuter): British soccer results yesterday:

English Division Two

Blackburn 0 Swindon 0

English Division Three

Port Vale 2 Wigan 1

English Division Four

Tranmere 2 Crewe 2

Bridge

RESULTS OF THE SAS Bridge Club

game played on Sunday:

NJS

1st Nabil Akel & Juliette Mussharaw

2nd Janilia Akel & Camilia Garguis

3rd Sandra Turvey & Gill Wilde

E/W

1st Daphne El-Saad & Margaret Maynard

2nd Peg Adderley & Mandy Clarke

3rd Nida Khalaf & Jolmette Chiles



Gooch: a brilliant performance as Nottinghamshire were dismissed for a paltry 155 on the fourth and final day of their first county match of the season.

The lanky Fraser, one of a group of young players Mid-

Nottinghamshire were dismissed for a paltry 155 on the fourth and final day of their first county match of the season.

At Old Trafford: Worcester-shire beat Lancashire by ten wickets. Worcestershire 409 for seven declared in 144 overs and 21 points Glamorgan 5.

opener Chris Broad lbw for 10.

Broad's England colleague Tim Robinson, the Nottinghamshire captain, retired hurt with a finger injury after scoring only four and from that point only Paul Johnson, whoscored a stubborn 60, offered any defiance.

Lancashire, championship runners-up last year, also suffered defeat when they went down to a 10-wicket defeat to Old Trafford.

But Worcestershire were made to wait longer than expected for victory, thanks to a fighting last-wicket stand of 89 by Lancashire's 47-year-old off-spinner Jack Simmons and number 11 Ian Folley.

Simmons, top scorer in Lancashire's first innings with 32, played another defiant knock for 57 not out, including seven fours.

Folley, despite a broken finger on his right hand, also batted bravely for 30 until he was yorked by England paceman Graham Dilley with the new ball.

Lancashire's total of 336 left Worcestershire needing only 29 for victory.

Results

At Hove: Sussex beat Somerset by seven wickets. Somerset 142 in 67.3 overs and 333. Sussex 266 in 81.2 overs and 213 for three (A. Green 44). Sussex 23 points Somerset 4.

At Old Trafford: Worcester-shire beat Lancashire by ten wickets. Worcestershire 409 for seven declared in 144 overs and 21 points Glamorgan 5.

29 for no wicket. Lancashire 101 in 47.4 overs and 336 (M. Watkinson 68, J. Simmons 57 not out, R. Illingworth five for 107, G. Hick four for 138). Worcester-shire 23 points Lancashire 1.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Nottinghamshire by 241 runs. Middlesex 199 in 67.5 overs and 505 for five declared. Nottinghamshire 308 in 129.2 overs and 155 (P. Johnson 60, A. Fraser four for 42, N. Cowans three for 38). Middlesex 19 points Nottinghamshire 7.

At Derby: Derbyshire v Leicestershire match drawn. Derbyshire 324 in 119.5 overs and 331 for eight (J. Wright 84, R. Finney 52 not out, S. Goldsmith 44, B. Roberts 42, P. Bowler 40). Leicestershire 482 for eight declared. Derbyshire 4 points Leicestershire 7.

At Chelmsford: Essex beat Kent by eight wickets. Kent 400 for seven declared in 152 overs and 384 (G. Cowdry 145, S. Marsh 120, C. Cowdry 54, J. Childs five for 113). Essex 616 in 161.5 overs and 170 for two (G. Gooch 73, A. Border 55 not out). Essex 21 points Kent 4.

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Glamorgan by six wickets. Glamorgan 372 for nine declared in 128 overs and 296 for eight declared (M. Alleyne four for 48). Gloucestershire 341 for seven declared in 113.1 overs and 329 for four (W. Athey 88 not out, J. Wright 87, M. Alleyne 56, J. Lloyds 42). Gloucestershire 21 points Glamorgan 5.



Imran: a lot depends on him

Pakistan can take 3rd Test: Intikhab

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 26, (Reuter): Pakistan cricket manager Intikhab Alam said yesterday he was still confident his team would win the third and final Test against West Indies, despite their dramatic slump in the final hour of the third day on Sunday.

Pakistan, who need only a draw to become the first team for 15 years to beat West Indies in a home series, collapsed from 150 for two to 177 for six, an overall lead of only 180.

Intikhab, speaking on the rest day, said: "I think we have a very good chance of winning this Test match especially if we can score another 70 or 80 runs. With the occasional ball keeping low, a fourth innings target of 250 would be a difficult one against our attack."

Intikhab said wicketkeeper Salim Yousaf, who has not taken the field since having his nose broken by a Malcolm Marshall bouncer on the first day, would be able to bat today.

"Salim was in fact padded up at the end of the third day," Intikhab said. "But he will not be keeping in the West Indies second innings. Aamer Malik did

a very competent stand-in job."

West Indies team manager Jackie Hendriks agreed that the match was far from over.

"It's a wide open game as far as I'm concerned. Hopefully what happened in our first innings will not be repeated," Hendriks said. "West Indies were in deep trouble in their first innings, before a tailend rally."

The West Indian batting remains heavily dependent on their captain Viv Richards, who has been in magnificent form after returning to the side for the second Test.

Their seasoned openers Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes have not managed a half-century between them in the series and neither have looked at all comfortable against Pakistani captain Imran Khan, who has now taken 76 wickets in 15 Tests against the West Indies.

Imran has, however, been much less successful with the bat than with his last bowling.

His top score this series is only 24 and much will depend on both he and Wasim Akram, the other not out batsman, when play resumes.

Dittmar outlasts Eyles in Open quarterfinal

PARIS, April 26, (Reuter): Chris Dittmar beat fellow Australian Rodney Eyles 9-5 10-9 9-6 in a classy Paris Open squash championship quarterfinal yesterday.

Dittmar, seeded second, had to draw on his wide experience to win despite taking the opening game with some stunning shots that came from deceptive cross-court drives.

In the second, Eyles matched everything Dittmar threw his way, bettering his opponent with several drop shots in the forehand corner.

Both players displayed their full range of strokes in the third before a string of mistakes by Eyles, seeded 14th, in the fourth game gave Dittmar victory.

New Zealand's Ross Norman and Australian Chris Robertson fought a different kind of battle.

With long rallies the order,

each player waited for the other to make the mistakes.

After winning the opening game 9-0, former world champion Norman let Robertson level 8-10. But his brief recovery lasted only until the New Zealander's superior stamina and fitness gave him the final two games 9-29-5.

World champion Jansher Khan made light work of Australian opponent Ross Thorne, winning 9-4 9-5 9-4, and was to meet 11th-seeded Pakistani compatriot Zarak Jahan Khan in this evening's semifinals.

Jahan Khan surprisingly beat Australian Brett Martin 9-5 10-8 9-2.

Ireland meet Yugoslavia

DUBLIN, April 26, (Reuter): Depleted Ireland will do well to extend their seven-match unbeaten record when they face Yugoslavia in a soccer friendly tomorrow.

The Irish squad has been reduced to 15 and lost much-needed firepower following the withdrawal of three key English First Division strikers, two within the past 48 hours.

A field of 32 players started the annual tournament at the Shonan Sports Centre in Fujisawa, west of Tokyo.

Action

All highly-seeded players led by top-seeded American Pam Shriver and No.2 seed Bulgarian Manuela Maleeva will go into action tomorrow.

Gigi Fernandez of the United States had little trouble rolling over veteran Australian Wendy Turnbull 6-2, 6-0 to move into the second round.

Peanut Harper of the United

States took the first set tiebreaker to eliminate Australian Elizabeth Smylie 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

Barbara Gerkens of the United States swept over compatriot Tina Mochizuki, who moved up from a qualifying round. 6-3, 6-3

back strong in the final set to oust Lindqvist 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 to advance to the second round.

Anne Minter, the No.7 seed Australian, managed to overcome American Lea Antonopolis in the final set tiebreaker to score a 6-0, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3) triumph.

At Henricsson of the

United States dropped the first set but eliminated Japanese Kumiko Okamoto 5-7, 6-2, 7-5.

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Manager Jack Charlton attempted to call up Millwall's Tony Cascarino as a replacement, but the club, rejected the request.

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their full range of strokes in the third before a string of mistakes by Eyles, seeded 14th, in the fourth game gave Dittmar victory.

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